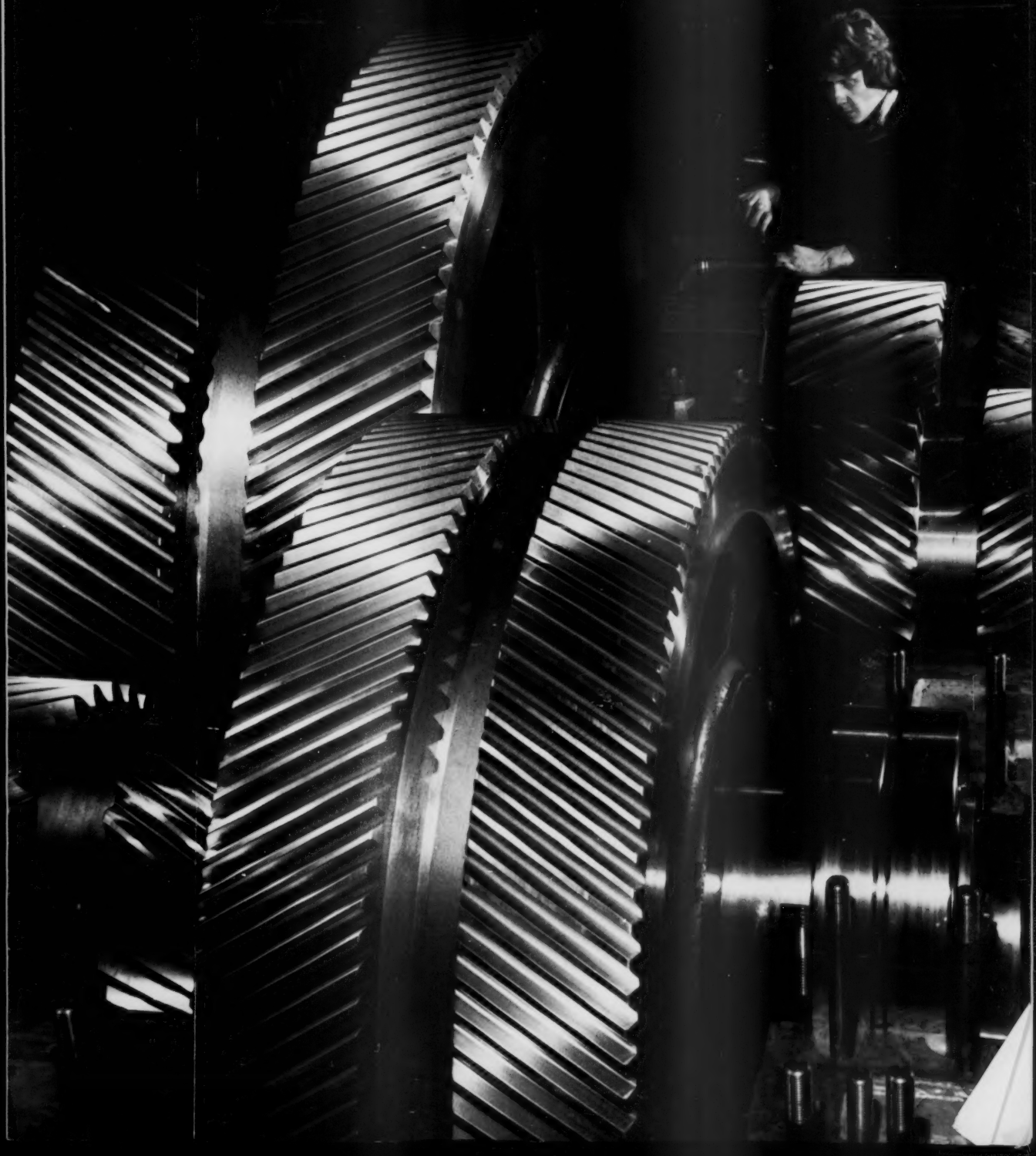
Trade and Industry

18 February 1977 35p

n gear for trade with Czechoslovakia



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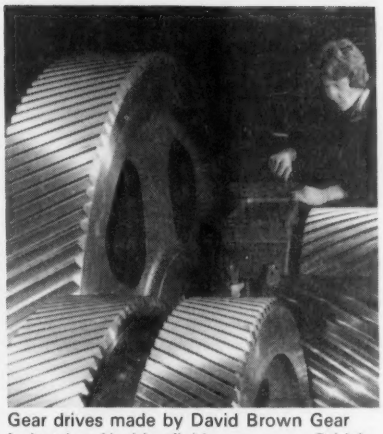
Trade and Industry

18 February 1977

News from the Departments of Industry·Trade·Prices & Consumer Protection



Gear drives made by David Brown Gear Industries, Huddersfield, are among British equipment now in service in Czechoslovakia. Our cover shows similar gears built by David Brown for a USSR rubber mixing plant. Czechoslavakia is the subject of our latest market report.

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Trade and Industry this week

HOME

How to cut air fares – Dell

Air fares could be reduced by 8 per cent if Britain's proposals are adopted for a new air services agreement with the United States.

Edmund Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, made this estimate in a speech to the air transport section of the London Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday (16 February).

The 8 per cent reduction, in real terms, would still yield a reasonable return to the airlines, he said.

Competitive mounting of capacity had become a main competitive tool on the American side, with the result that aircraft had been flying only half full.

'The passenger then pays for the empty seat next to him, as well as his own,' Mr Dell said. 'There is a good deal of consumer dissatisfaction about air transport at the moment. What the passenger wants is lower fares, not empty aircraft.'

Excess capacity was also undesirable on environmental grounds in view of unnecessary noise and waste of fuel.

The UK/US air services agreement – the so-called Bermuda agreement – is due to end on 22 June, a year after Britain's notice of termination. The next round of negotiations for a new agreement is due to start in London on 28 February.

It was not difficult to see why Britain was seeking a re-negotiation of Bermuda, Mr Dell said. In 1975/76 the US carriers earned £293 million compared with our airlines' £130 million.

Bermuda had also not turned out so well even for the US airlines. During the past five years Pan Am made operating losses totalling about £48 million on the North Atlantic, while TWA made a profit on the Atlantic in some years and a loss in others – ending up with a profit over the five years of a mere £25 million.

In the past few years the agreement had produced increasing friction.

'It is in the interests of the United States as well as ourselves to secure a new agreement that will last. This means that it must meet the real needs of the next two or three decades. We believe that such an agreement will necessitate giving this country a fairer share of the benefits; giving the consumers the lowest possible fares by relating capacity to demand; allowing the airlines of both sides to achieve a reasonable profit; and letting the world enjoy the benefits of competition without the waste which has characterised the past.'

Government backs Skytrain

Efforts are to be made by the government to get Laker Airways' Skytrain flying as soon as possible by means of a special arrangement with the United States.

Laker met Department of Trade officials on Wednesday, 16 February to discuss Britain's brief for negotiating with the United States.

Edmund Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, said on Wednesday that he believed 'this method provides the best chance of getting the experiment under way without muddying the waters of the Bermuda re-negotiation'. He was addressing the air transportation section of the London Chamber of Commerce. The UK/US Air Services (Bermuda) Agreement is to be terminated on Britain's initiative on 22 June, and a new round of negotiating is due to begin in London on 28 February.

On 14 February Mr Dell told parliament that the government would not challenge the Appeal Court's finding in favour of the Skytrain project but would make every effort to get the US authorities to allow Skytrain services to start as soon as possible.

Priority to manufacturing industry

Industry is the only area to emerge with increased resources from the recent tough programme of public expenditure cuts, Bob Cryer, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Industry, stressed in a speech to the Barking and Dagenham Chamber of Trade and Industry on 15 February.

'Government action to support the industrial strategy includes 11 selective investment incentive schemes so far, providing over £200 million,' said Mr Cryer. 'In addition, a new selective investment scheme makes £100 million available to help major projects that will lead to an identifiable improvement in industrial performance, with particular attention being given to engineering. This itself follows the accelerated projects scheme which will provide government help of £84 million to bring forward investment totalling £640 million.

'A £70 million steel stockpile scheme has already been introduced to anticipate possible shortages highlighted by a number of industrial strategy sector working parties,' continued Mr Cryer. 'Spending on industrial training and re-training is now at record levels: since the 1975 budget, the government has made available over £600 million to create or keep open half a million jobs or training places throughout the country.

'The National Enterprise Board has been given an additional £50 million a year for selective investment in industry. And of course the 100 per cent first year tax allowance for machinery and plant, coupled with tax relief on stock appreciation still means that for an expanding manufacturing business there is in practice virtually no tax at all on profits that are ploughed back.

'There had been a considerable improvement in industrial disputes since 1975. In 1975 the number of days lost through strikes in the UK dropped by 57 per cent, a performance only bettered by two other countries, Norway and West Germany. In 1976 the number of strikes fell to a low point which we have only bettered twice in the last 20 years.'

Fifth round production licences

Conditional awards of offshore petroleum licences offered under the fifth round have been announced by Tony Benn, Secretary of State for Energy.

The conditional awards cover a total of 44 of the 71 blocks and part-blocks offered and involve 65 companies acting individually or in groups. The 44 blocks represent around 9,000km² in the North Sea, Irish Sea, Cardigan Bay, English Channel and West of Scotland.

The licences, conditional upon the companies reaching operating agreements with the British National Oil Corporation (BNOC) satisfactory to the Secretary of State for Energy, will be awarded under the terms and conditions laid down in the Petroleum (Production) Regulations 1976. Prospective co-licensees will also have to agree a work programme with the department.

The BNOC will be a 51 per cent partner in Fifth Round licences – although where licence interests are held by the British Gas Corporation these will count towards the 51 per cent state share.

Fair trading upheld

Director General of Fair Trading, Gordon Borrie, has obtained his first court order

against a trader alleged to have persistently broken the criminal or civil law.

In Cardiff county court on 14 February the Director General sought an order against a gas central heating supplier and installer, Jergen Krupa of 52 Moorland Road, Cardiff.

In April 1975 Mr Krupa gave a written assurance to the Director General that he would refrain from installing gas-fired central heating in a manner not in accordance with the terms of his contracts with customers, and would refrain from committing offences under the Gas Safety Regulations 1972, in particular by installing gas pipes which leaked gas.

In the county court on 14 February, it was alleged, on the Director General's behalf, that Mr Krupa had continued to breach terms of contract and had again been convicted under the Gas Safety Regulations after giving his written assurance.

The court order means that Mr Krupa must refrain from his previous conduct – he must not break terms of contracts by failing to install equipment in a proper and workman-like manner and must not commit further breaches of the regulations.

Mr Krupa, who did not appear in court and was not represented, was ordered to pay the Director General's costs.

EXHIBITIONS

More talent needed

More talented young people must be attracted into industry, Leslie Huckfield, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Industry, said in Maidenhead on 15 February.

Mr Huckfield was visiting Cox Green Comprehensive School where the Department of Industry's 'School Science and Everyday Life Exhibition' is being held.

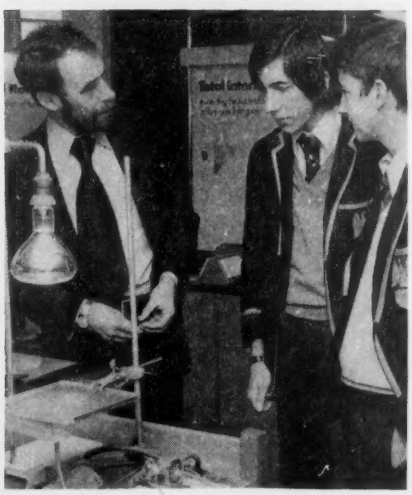
'But industry and education recognise the need to improve the flow of high calibre young people into the wealth-creating areas of manufacturing industry such as design, production, quality control and marketing,' Mr Huckfield said. 'How far we succeed depends to a large extent on how relevant science teaching in schools is to what goes on in industry, and the application of this knowledge to the manufacture of goods that people need.

'Much closer liaison between industry and educational establishments is essential. This would, for example, help teachers in schools to relate maths and science subjects to real work problems and bring home to pupils the vital wealth creating role of industry, its importance to the nation and the rewarding careers available.

'There are a number of schemes in which employers can participate, including those organised by the Industrial Society, the British Institute of Management and the Confederation of British Industry. Employers can also help themselves by maintaining close links with schools through taking up governorships and taking a closer interest in careers advice.

'Sponsorship of bright students at colleges and universities and closer liaison with staff at further education establishments would help ensure that the content of courses is relevant to industry's needs. Another valuable activity is co-operation between schools and industry on a local basis, for example by "twinning" school with a local factory.'

Leslie Huckfield at the Department of Industry's School Science and Everyday Life Exhibition at Cox Green Comprehensive School.



New Patents Bill: certification of exhibitions

Under the 1949 Patents Act, the organiser of an exhibition may apply to the Department of Trade to issue a certificate under section 51(2) to allow inventions to be exhibited without prejudicing the inventor's chances of obtaining a patent because of a lack of novelty claim.

However because of the UK's impending membership of the European Patent Convention (Cmnd 5656), for which provision is being made in the new bill, the practice in issuing these certificates will change if the bill is enacted, which it is thought may be on 1 January 1978 or shortly thereafter. The European Patent Convention requires that such certificates should only be given to very large international exhibitions recognised under the convention relating to international exhibitions, signed in Paris in 1928 and amended in 1948. This change will also follow the recommendations of the convention on the unification of certain points of substantive law on patents for inventions (Cmnd 2362, 1964) which the UK intends to ratify.

The present procedure of certification will, however, continue in respect of registered designs under section 6(2) of the Registered Designs Act 1949.

A copy of the new patents bill is available for consultation in the Science Reference Library, 25 Southampton Buildings, London WC2A 1AY.

EUROPE

UK backs Portugal

During talks in London on 14 February, Prime Minister James Callaghan assured Portuguese Prime Minister Dr Soares (pictured left above) of the government's full support for Portuguese membership of the EEC and looked forward to Portugal taking her full place in Europe.

The two prime ministers had a full discussion about Portugal's intention to apply for membership of the EEC. Both agreed that there would be many practical difficulties to be overcome and that the process would take time, but Mr Callaghan promised that the British government would play its full part in achieving a successful conclusion.

London was the first stop on Dr Soares' tour of European capitals, where he is discussing Portugal's desire for membership of the European community. He is accompanied by Portugal's Foreign Minister Dr Ferreira and by senior officials.

See also page 429: 'Foreign Ministers prepare for Portuguese visitor.'

COUNTRY DATA

State of emergency in Sierra Leone

Because of the current state of emergency in Sierra Leone, British visitors to the country are required for visa purposes to advise the Sierra Leone immigration department (through the Sierra Leone High Commission), in advance, of the purpose of their intended visit.

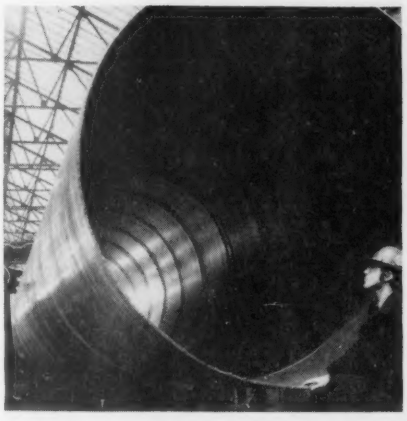
Inquiries: 01-215 3064/3331.

Home news

Government aid helps £300m industrial expansion in North West

Grants to firms in the North West under section 7 of the Industry Act since October 1972 have led to projects for expanding or improving production worth £245.2 million, according to figures compiled by the regional headquarters of the Department of Industry. Added to the £59 million worth of projects helped under the accelerated projects scheme, schemes worth over £300 million in the North West region have now been aided.

A total of £75 million had been allocated to North West companies as selective financial assistance under section 7 of the act by the end of 1976. Of this, £44.67 million had already been handed over to firms in the form of loans or interest-relief grants to assist in projects for expanding or improving production. The remainder was represented by schemes for which financial assistance had been promised but which were still incomplete.



This 3m diameter steel pipe is said to be the largest spirally welded steel pipe produced in Europe. It is being produced by Motherwell Bridge Pipe Ltd. The pipe is the first of a £1 million pipe supply contract to the Northumbrian water authority for the Kielder water scheme.

Development Commission factory at Oswestry

Work has begun on an advance factory of about 450m² (5,000 sq ft) being built for the Development Commission at Maesbury Road, Oswestry. The English Industrial Estates Corporation has awarded a contract worth over £60,000 to W. A. Sherratt Ltd, of Church Stretton, Salop. Architects are Associated Design Consultants and quantity surveyors are the Youdan Briggs Partnership, both of Liverpool.

The premises should be ready in July. Inquiries regarding purchase or lease should be made to: Regional Director, Department of Industry, West Midlands Region, Five Ways House, Islington Row, Birmingham, B15 1SJ. (Tel: 021-643 8221).

Major expansion for Massey-Ferguson at Knowsley

The English Industrial Estates Corporation is building an extension of about 5,000m² (54,000 sq ft) to the premises occupied by Massey-Ferguson on the Department of Industry's Knowsley industrial estate, Merseyside.

The company occupied premises at Knowsley in 1970 and these were virtually doubled, by an extension completed in the following year, to the present size of 26,000m² (280,000 sq ft).

It is expected that 250 to 300 more jobs will be created over the next four years. About 75 per cent of Massey-Ferguson's production is exported.

Who pays for council house repairs?

Tenant involvement in the repair and improvement of council housing is to be investigated by the National Consumer Council.

Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, announced the investigation when speaking at a monthly meeting of the council in London on 14 February.

The council was set up by the government in May 1975 to identify and represent the interests of consumers. It has already reported on two references by the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection – nationalised industry consumer councils and the problems of consumers in paying for fuel.

Leaflet explains the shoe codes

A leaflet has been published by the Office of Fair Trading explaining the two codes of practice covering the footwear industry.

Over 2,000 complaints about footwear are sent to the OFT each year. More than 7,500 shoe shops and repairers have agreed to the codes, which aim to improve the quality of footwear, standards of service, the workmanship and materials.

The codes also mean that complaints should be handled promptly and with the minimum of fuss. Part of the new complaints procedure described in the leaflet, is the Footwear Testing Centre, where shoes can be sent for an independent examination.

'Shoes' is the latest leaflet in the OFT's 'For your protection' series. The leaflet is available free from consumer advice centres, citizens advice bureaux and trading standards and consumer protection departments.

Clearance of merger proposals

Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, has decided, on the information at present before him, not to refer the following proposed mergers to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission under the provisions of the Fair Trading Act 1973:

Staveley Industries Ltd/George Salter and Co Ltd

Argo Group SA/Williams Hudson Group Ltd

Deltec Trust Co Ltd and LET International Ltd/The Antofagasta (Chili) and Bolivia Railway Co Ltd

Ashdown Investment Trust Ltd/Westpool Investment Trust Ltd

Telephone and General Investment Trust Ltd/Temple Bar Investment Trust Ltd.

January degree days

The second set of degree day figures to be issued by the Department of Energy shows that there were approximately 20 per cent more degree days in January this year compared with January 1976. The month's figures were also well ahead of the calculated average figures for the period 1957-75.

The figures record the extent and length of time in January that the external temperature fell below a base figure of 15.5 deg C (60 deg F). Because this affects the amount of fuel needed to provide a given level of space heating in industry and commerce, the figures can be used to check on the efficiency of the heating system.

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Government hopes on industrial democracy

Hopes that consultations on industrial democracy with the CBI and the TUC 'will lead to proposals which are broadly acceptable to both sides of industry and the country as a whole and which can therefore provide the basis for a lasting settlement', were expressed by Edmund Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, speaking to an Industrial Society conference in London on 14 February. Mr Dell set out the main issues to be considered and spoke of what he had learned from his recent visit to West Germany but emphasised that, as the consultations on industrial democracy were about to begin, he did not want anyone to imagine that they could tell from what he said or how he said it – 'from either exegesis or intonation' – which way his thoughts were moving.

Mr Dell repeated the five important points which he had underlined in his statement on 26 January on the publication of the Bullock Report.

'First, I repeated the government's commitment to a radical extension of industrial democracy through representation of the work force on company boards and to the essential role of trades unions in this process.

'Second, I said we intended to undertake consultation with the CBI and the TUC in order that as much common ground as possible may be identified.

'Third, I said that these consultations would be on the general basis of the recommendations in the majority report.

'Fourth, I made clear our intention to bring forward legislative proposals in this session of parliament.

'Fifth, I expressed the hope that the consultations would take place in a positive and constructive atmosphere, with recognition by both sides of industry of the need to seek a lasting settlement.'

Mr Dell emphasised the need for a lasting settlement.

Referring to the many voluntary arrangements developed for permitting employees to take part in processes leading to decision-taking, Mr Dell noted that there are those who have argued that these represent a better way forward.

'It is certainly a tradition of company law in this country that it should allow considerable freedom to companies to devise whatever organisational structure best suits their needs,' he said.

'We believe that this one of the great strengths of company law in this country and as far as possible we shall seek to preserve its flexibility . . .

'The government believes that employees must be given a statutory right to representation on the boards of the larger companies and to some extent the statute must prescribe how this is to be done, but we shall aim to establish a framework which permits and encourages the parties within each company to reach agreement on solutions best suited to its particular circumstances.

'The future of the expansion of our mixed economy depends on the sharing of responsibility and for a great many people it is no longer acceptable that companies should be run on the basis which does not give employees the right to share in the formulation of policy at the highest level of the company.

'For the future, the aim should be for the exercise of the management function to be within an overall policy agreed jointly and accepted by the representatives of capital and labour. In this way employees can be encouraged to devote their full energies to the development and growth of the enterprise in which they work.

'But, it is asked, why should there be representation on boards? The board of course is the place where legal responsibility lies. If I introduced legislation into the House of Commons proposing that a board should have responsibility not just to its shareholders but to its employees, there would be little dissent.

'Why then should there be controversy if it is proposed that that responsibility should be exercised by a board which has been chosen by those to whom it is responsible – workers and shareholders? That, after all, is a normal democratic arrangement, but equally there must be a commitment by the participants to making the system work effectively. Without such a commitment no democratic system can work.'

Mr Dell noted the concern about the proposal that only trade unions should have a statutory right to trigger employee representation and that they alone should decide on the selection of employee directors. He commented that this question was one 'of great and legitimate concern and therefore one which clearly needs discussion and thought. Above all we must ensure that the system we adopt has the confidence of all those closely involved.'

On the question of a unitary versus a two-tier board structure, Mr Dell said: 'We shall be consulting on the basis of the Bullock majority view because undoubtedly to continue here in the UK with the unitary system has attractions, but a two-tier system is not ruled out at this stage.'

European and West German experience

Mr Dell said that the UK, along with Italy and Ireland, is in the minority of members of the EEC that have no formal arrangements for worker directors.

He said that he had visited West Germany to discover how relevant industrial democracy was thought to be to the real needs of German industry and society and to discuss the ways in which particular issues have been resolved.

He had come back encouraged and also 'reassured by the fact that the problems which have been identified in this country are not very different from those which have arisen in Germany – though the solution to these problems may have to be different.'

Industry Act assistance: interest rates reduced

The maximum rate of Interest Relief Grant and interest rates for loans under section 7 of the Industry Act 1972 have been reduced with effect from 14 February.

The rate of Interest Relief Grant available in those cases where it would be appropriate to allow the equivalent of an interest free period on a Department of Industry loan – but where firms obtain their finance from other sources – is reduced from 15½ per cent to 15 per cent for each interest free year.

The 'concessionary' rate of interest on loans for employment-creating projects (Category A) is reduced from 12½ per cent to 12 per cent. The 'broadly commercial' rate of interest on loans for modernisation projects not providing additional employment (Category B) is reduced from 15¼ per cent to 15 per cent.

Industrial common ownership conference

Common ownership – and other issues relevant to producer co-operation – will be informally discussed at a conference being arranged by the Department of Industry.

The conference was announced in parliament on 10 February by Bob Cryer, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department of Industry. In answer to a written question from David Watkins (Consett) he said:

'Industrial Common Ownership Finance Ltd (ICOF) has been recognised as a relevant body under the act. I anticipate that this organisation will shortly apply for a grant under section 1. We are aware of other organisations which may seek to take part in implementing the relevant provisions.

'My department is arranging a one-day conference to promote informal discussion of issues relevant to producer co-operation, including common ownership, in the light of this legislation. The conference will be held on Thursday 21 April at the Co-operative College, Stanford Hall, Loughborough. My department will invite a wide range of bodies including co-operative and common ownership organisations, local authority representatives and industrial interest to attend, but we would be very glad to hear from any organisation wishing to be represented at the conference.'

Note

David Watkins MP introduced the Industrial Common Ownership Act 1976 with

the object of furthering the development of worker controlled enterprises and supporting the work of the Industrial Common Ownership Movement (ICOM). With government support it was enacted and received Royal Assent on 22 November 1976 after its scope had been widened by making producer co-operatives of the traditional kind eligible for assistance under the act.

The act provides for grants of up to £30,000 a year for five years to assist a relevant body to provide advice about organising certain worker controlled enterprises. In addition grants and loans within a maximum of £250,000 outstanding at any time in the five year period will be available for on-lending to co-operative and common ownership enterprises.

Organisations wishing to be represented at the conference should apply to Department of Industry, Small Firms Division, Abell House, John Islip Street, London SW1P 4LN, tel 01-211 7351/6388.

New regulations for oil heaters

New regulations for the safety of portable oil heaters were announced on 11 February by John Fraser, Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Protection. Replying to a parliamentary question from Tom Torney (Bradford South), Mr Fraser said:

'The Oil Heaters (Safety) Regulations 1977* which were laid before parliament yesterday will, on coming into operation, replace the Oil Heaters Regulations 1962 as amended and impose revised safety requirements for domestic unflued oil heaters, based on the provisions of British Standard 3300:1974.

'The regulations, which have been made under the Consumer Protection Act 1961, come into operation on 1 April this year for manufacturers and importers and on 1 September this year for retailers and wholesalers. As in the case of the existing regulations, they apply to second-hand as well as new appliances.'

The new regulations, in addition to embodying the already comprehensive safety requirements in the existing regulations, require all heaters (other than those designed to operate only when fixed to a rigid support) to have a self-extinguishing facility so that if one is overturned while alight, the heater is automatically extinguished within 15 seconds.

Other requirements in the new (and present) regulations relate to such matters as construction, design and safe performance. They cover, among other things, stability, limitation of spillage of fuel on overturning, limitation of the emission of carbon monoxide, surface temperature, operation when out of level, fire risk to surroundings and safe performance in a draught. In addition, heaters are required to bear specified warnings.

*Available from HMSO as SI 1977/167, price 12p.

The new regulations, made under the Consumer Protection Act 1961, will apply to all portable heaters suitable for domestic use offered for sale in Great Britain. Manufacturers, importers, wholesalers and retailers are all liable to prosecution if they sell non-complying appliances. As in the case of the existing regulations, the new regulations will be enforced by local weights and measures authorities.

The regulations do not apply to oil heaters intended for use in industrial or commercial premises, greenhouses etc unless they are 'suitable for use in any dwelling'. All portable oil heaters suitable for this purpose come within their scope including wick-feed, barometric feed and pressure heaters.

Applications invited for consumer advice grants

Local authorities have been invited by the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection to submit applications for grants towards the running costs of consumer advice centres in the coming financial year.

Answering a parliamentary question on 10 February from Dr Oonagh McDonald (Thurrock), who had asked about discussions with local authorities on grants for consumer advice centres and local price surveys, John Fraser, Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Protection said:

'My department has now completed these discussions and is today sending a circular to all local authorities in Great Britain inviting applications for grants for consumer advice centres. We have asked that all applications should reach the department by 14 March 1977. A circular announcing the continuation of the surveys for a further 12 months from 1 April 1977 was sent to local authorities and organisations operating such schemes on 8 February.'

Appointments to Regional Industrial Development Boards

Alan Williams, Minister of State, Department of Industry has announced a number of new appointments to Regional Industrial Development Boards in England. The new members are as follows:

Yorkshire and Humberside Industrial Development Board, meeting in Leeds
Dr R. Gill, managing director, Allied Colloids Ltd.

South West Industrial Development Board, meeting in Plymouth
G. D. K. Foale, Bishop Fleming and Co, Chartered Accountants, I. R. Sutherland, managing director and chief executive, Silley Cox and Co, Ltd.

North West Industrial Development Board, meeting in Manchester
R. B. de Zouche, Wilson, de Zouche and Mackenzie, Chartered Accountants. L. C. Young, group managing director, J. Bibby and Sons Ltd.

Northern Industrial Development Board, meeting in Newcastle
Professor W. G. McClelland, director of the Manchester Business School. Professor McClelland will take up his appointment shortly.

Chairmanship of the South West Industrial Development Board

In addition to these appointments, which date from 1 January 1977, Mr D. M. Gillespie, an existing member of the South West Industrial Development Board, has been appointed chairman of that board as from 1 January 1977 in succession to Mr W. K. Shepherd who has retired after serving on the board since its inception in 1972.

Insurance Companies Act 1974: authorisations

The following authorisations to carry on insurance business in Great Britain were issued by the Secretary of State for Trade under Section 3(1) of the Insurance Companies Act 1974 during the period 1 January to 31 January 1977.

Name of insurer, registered office or address in Great Britain	Country of incorporation if outside Great Britain	Date of authorisation	Class or classes of insurance business for which authorisation was issued
The Chiyoda Fire and Marine Insurance Company (UK) Ltd 19 Hanover Square London W1A 1DU	—	26.1.77	LIAB, MAT, PL, PA, PROP
Scottish Mutual Pension Funds Investment Ltd 109 St Vincent Street Glasgow G2 5HN	—	11.1.77	OLT

Classes of business:

I	Industrial assurance business
LIAB	Liability insurance business
MAT	Marine, aviation and transport insurance business
MV	Motor vehicle insurance business
OLT	Ordinary long term insurance business
PL	Pecuniary loss insurance business
PA	Personal accident insurance business
PROP	Property insurance business

Prices policy and the counter-inflation strategy

'We do not discard lightly comments on our prices policy . . . and we are aware that a code based on historic data can become more and more outdated,' said John Fraser, Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, on 9 February. 'We propose to take that fact into account in drawing up the next stage of the policy.'

Earlier the minister, who was speaking to the American Chamber of Commerce in London, had vigorously defended the DPCP's pursuit of prices policy as part of the counter-inflation strategy. He admitted that the price code had not always been enthusiastically received by industry and that some other sectors felt that the code was not tough enough but . . . 'I believe absolutely that prices policy is indispensible,' he said.

'I am convinced that where our main battle as a government is against inflation that we cannot proceed without a prices policy which is seen to be effective. One simply cannot expect the successful degree of restraint which the trade unions have exercised under the social contract without both exercising restraint on prices and ensuring that the benefits of restraint of income find their way through into the prices that the consumer has to pay.

'Wage restraint has not instantly and immediately been reflected in prices. Like other elements in the cost of living there was a lag. What our policy has done is to reflect in due time the beneficial aspects of incomes policy. Because of the time that it takes favourable or adverse effects to find their way into prices we are now going through a period where the past fall in the exchange rate is reflecting itself in the cost of living. But overall the rate of inflation has fallen and will now remain on a plateau for some time, for reasons unconnected with incomes policy, and will then fall again. Without prices policy I think one could not record the achievements nor make the forecast that I have.

'I know some critics say that competition by itself would have the same effect. Well competition does have an effect. I pay tribute to it where it does. Indeed one clear consumer responsibility of my department is to make competition as open and effective as we can. It is for that reason that we have concentrated so much on clear unambiguous price display. For the same reason our Monopolies and Mergers Commission has been given a heavy programme of work. And it is for the same reason that we have sought to provide the consumer, and particularly the vulunerable lower income consumer, with the maximum amount of information so that he can both sharpen competition in his purchasing and take advantage of competition which works for his benefit. Competition is in my view an indispensible element in protecting the consumer. His force and muscle lie in exercising an intelligent choice. His force which determines in part the products and the prices he pays is market force itself.

'The experience of our prices and competition policy, and the fact that some monopolies, both private and public are inevitable, and in some cases positively desirable, mean that we cannot rely upon an illusion of perfect competition, perfectly matching the needs of the consumer. We constantly come up against cases where increased costs have not justified prices, and of course, those prices have been restrained. A perfect market does not exist and even if it did I do not think it would give all the beneficial aspects which some purists ascribe to it.

'Just as the market has its defects I recognise that prices policy can accumulate defects as well. In 1974 when we came into office, the Price Code had no relief for investment. Yet the generation of funds for investment to create new jobs is essential. We relaxed the code in that respect in 1974 and built on it again most recently in 1976 so that the Price Code now provides a substantial gateway to new investment. The problems of stock appreciation and the possible inhibitions contained in the code on export performance were also matters where the code was amended. We are now re-examining the nature of prices policy for the next stage.'

New price limits for cheese and household flour

Increased statutory maximum retail prices for cheese – by 8p per lb – and for household flour – by 1p per 1 lb pack and 2p per 3 lb pack – came into force on 14 February. Orders specifying the new limits were laid before parliament on 9 February by Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection.

Higher cheese prices are due to increased manufacturing costs and the reduction in subsidy which came into effect on 28 December 1976. Increased costs account for the rise in household flour prices. Generally shop prices will remain below the new limits. The extent to which they may rise continues to be governed by the requirements that distributors' profits – the percentage difference between their buying and selling prices – should not be increased.

The orders are: the Cheese Prices (Amendment) Order 1977 – SI 1977/193 (price 10p), and the Household Flour Prices (Amendment) Order 1977 – SI 1977/192 (price 10p). Copies are available from branches of HMSO and leading booksellers.

The new maximum prices for cheese sold from bulk or pre-packed in the normal paper or polythene wrappers in random quantities are:

	Pence per lb	
Category of cheese	Farmhouse or matured	Other
Cheddar:		
UK (including Dunlop) and other EEC	85	75
New Zealand		75
UK Cheshire	83	73
UK territorials:		
Caerphilly, Derby, Double Gloucester, Lancashire, Leicester, Wensleydale and White Stilton		75
Edam and Gouda		75

The reduction in the cheese subsidy on 28 December 1976 was equivalent to about 4p per lb at the retail level.

For household flour the new maximum prices are:

	Price in pence	
	1 lb pack	3 lb pack
Plain (other than strong, wheatmeal and wholemeal)	11½	31
Self-raising (other than strong, wheatmeal and wholemeal)	11½	31

The maximum price of chupatty (other than batch, brown and wholemeal) flour is not being increased and remains at £4.50 per 70lb or 32kg pack.

In making these new orders the opportunity has been taken to revoke articles 6 and 7 of the principal order for cheese and articles 7 and 8 of the principal order for household flour. These articles provided for the display of statutory maximum prices by retailers.

In accordance with the Prices Acts, the provisions of the orders have been the subject of consultations with interested organisations.

Enforcement is carried out by local weights and measures authorities in Great Britain and by the Department of Commerce in Northern Ireland.

Beer referred to Price Commission

Beer prices are to be referred to the Price Commission for special investigation. Replying to a parliamentary question on 10 February from Bryan Gould (Southampton Test), Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, said:

'It is clear that the level of public concern about beer prices remains high and my colleagues and I have agreed that it is necessary to establish the facts. I have therefore referred to the Price Commission for examination and report the prices and margins in the manufacture and distribution in the United Kingdom of beer which is sold by retail for consumption on licensed premises.

'I have asked the Price Commission to report by 31 July 1977. I should emphasise that the decision to make this reference does not imply that prices are unjustified or that there is evidence of profiteering.'

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ENCIRCLE TI 389 ON PAGE 471 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Home exhibitions

Freepost reader service

For further information on items in these sections, circle the corresponding number on the reader services page near the end of the magazine.

Developments in diamonds for industry

The first International Diamond Tools Exhibition and conference to be held in Britain for 11 years will appeal to users of diamonds in all industrial applications, reports the organiser, Turret Press Ltd. Exhibits will cover the newest industrial developments and uses to which diamonds are put.

The exhibition and conference is from 28 June to 1 July at the Wembley Exhibition and Conference Centre, London. The sponsors are De Beers Ltd who are also arranging the conference.

Already more than 40 companies and organisations in 11 countries have indicated intention to take stand space. There will be exhibits from Europe, S. Africa, the USA, India and the Middle East.

The conference will cover both stone and metalworking. It will include speakers from De Beers, the Diamond Industrial Products Association and from the Diamant Boart, Brussels.

Further information: circle 71

The Queen Mother visited the International Spring Fair at the National Exhibition Centre on 8 February. While making a tour of the fair Her Majesty called at the Government Services Centre, which provides an information service about government support available to industry and commerce. At the time of the Royal visit, the advisory, practical and financial help obtainable from BOTB was the subject of a special feature. The Queen Mother was conducted by Elkan Simons, (extreme left), founder and joint chairman of the International Spring Fair, president of the Export Council for the Jewellery and Giftware Industries.

Further information: circle 72

New products

Power chuck

A 5-in (130mm) diameter air chuck, suitable for direct fit to 5¼ in mount machines and giving up to 7,000 lb gripping force – without oil intensification, is available from Richard R. Leader Ltd, Surrey.

It is described as 'ideal for second operation work on most types of capstan lathes'. No extra fittings are required to be mounted to the back of the machine – the bar feed mechanism can be left in place.

As with other Leader power chucks, it can be specified with two, three or four jaws, is self-centering, completely self-contained, and has variable gripping facilities. Operation is by a single 80 PSI air supply controlled by a single lever or push button valve.

Further information: circle 73

Ion-free developers

Two ion-free developers for positive photoresists have been introduced by Micro-Image Technology Ltd, Derby – specialists in the production of ultra pure chemicals, and members of The Huntleigh Group.

As well as eliminating the need to introduce ions into the development process, the Superfine Developers are said to allow for shorter resist exposure times, faster development cycles, a higher degree of wafer cleanliness and cleaner development equipment. They give maximum resolution with complete removal of all depolymerised photoresist and minimised resist shrinkage or pattern distortion when used with either spray or immersion developing techniques. Being semiconductor grade products they are filtered down to 0.2 microns, thus giving a high degree of purity.

Further information: circle 74

Weighing by gamma-ray

The 'Nuweigher' from Avery Parsons, Dewsbury, the process weighing specialists, is said to bring accurate conveyor weighing to applications hitherto impossible using conventional weighers, eg screw conveyors or vibrating conveyors for the measurement of abrasive or hot materials.

The 'Nuweigher' works by measuring the intensity of gamma-ray radiation passed through the medium to be weighed, thus weighing without actually being in physical contact with either conveyor or product. It is completely unaffected by belt tension, idler designs, wind influence or angle.

Designed to weigh all types of materials, the Nuweigher can be used on a wide variety of conveyors, including belts up to 6 ft wide with any idler roll angle, drag chains at angles of 45° and over and even the measurement and automatic control of the suspended load in an air-slide. It is said to be suitable for incorporation into completely automated schemes.

Further information: circle 75

Aircraft drain valve

An automatic drain valve for aircraft pneumatic systems has been developed by Hymatic Engineering, Redditch, a member of The Huntleigh Group.

It is made from aluminium or stainless steel (dependent upon application), described as suitable for all normal engine tapping pressures and can be supplied with or without a drain connection. It has been designed to fit within an AGS or similar connector.

The valve will release water from a pneumatic system in which there is no internal pressure; as pressure builds up the valve closes automatically to form an efficient seal. It can also be supplied in a form which provides a small continuous leak to prevent water accumulating.

Further information: circle 76

Regional Development Programme for the United Kingdom

The first part of this abridged document was reproduced in *Trade and Industry* last week, when it was explained that this was the UK's preliminary version of the regional development programme which all member states of the community are bound to produce by the end of 1977 and which are intended to serve as a background for applications to the European Regional Development Fund. All member states have agreed to produce a preliminary version for the period 1977-79. This is an abridged version of the document and will be published in *Trade and Industry* in three parts. It omits annexes 1, 2 and 4 which reproduce information published in the Department of Industry's 'Incentives for Industry' booklet and statistical information.

The situation in the individual Assisted Areas

7.1 Earlier sections of this paper have described in general terms the United Kingdom's regional problem, the prospects, and the policy measures in operation. In this section the situation in the individual Assisted Areas is described in more detail and some indications are given of the types of investment which are particularly well suited to each region. Some major projects are also identified.

7.2 England is divided for economic planning and certain other purposes into eight regions. Three of these – North, Yorkshire and Humberside and North West – are wholly Assisted Areas, and three more – East Midlands, West Midlands and South West – are partly Assisted Areas.

7.3 The Assisted Areas are treated in the following order:

(a) England – North
(b) England – Yorkshire and Humberside
(c) England – East Midlands
(d) England – South West
(e) England – West Midlands
(f) England – North West
(g) Scotland
(h) Wales
(i) Northern Ireland

in most instances under the sub-headings: description – problems – prospects – development objectives – development measures.

(a) ENGLAND – NORTH

Description

7.4 The Northern Region consists of the five counties of Cleveland, Cumbria, Durham, Northumberland and Tyne and Wear. It covers an area of 1,935,000 hectares, has a population of just over 3 million, a workforce of 1.3 million and accounts for 5 per cent of the United Kingdom's Gross Domestic Product. Unemployment in June 1976 was 0.11 million, 8.1 per cent of employees.

7.5 The whole region is a national priority area in relation to the European Regional Development Fund having Special Development Area status in south east Northumberland, Tyne and Wear, most of Durham, Hartlepool and western Cumbria, and Development Area status elsewhere. Outside the industrialised areas of the north east and west Cumbria, much of the rest of the region is also a less favoured agricultural area.

Problems

7.6 The region's economic problems stem from a persistent decline in basic industries over the last 30-40 years, resulting in a continuously high level of unemployment. In addition to the general downward trend in employment in agriculture, transport and communications there was a rundown, mainly in male jobs, in mining and quarrying (particularly coalmining), metal manufacturing (in this region largely iron and steel manufacture), chemicals, shipbuilding and marine engineering amounting to 104,000 jobs between 1965 and 1975. Despite the considerable success of past policies and measures in diversifying the region's manufacturing industry, the industrial structure is still over-dependent on the traditional heavy industries of coal mining, shipbuilding and heavy electrical and marine engineering: these still provide 25 per cent of male jobs compared with 9 per cent in the United Kingdom as a whole.

7.7 Coal mining is now concentrated in the larger pits where modern machinery can be used to great advantage. The older pits, where reserves are largely exhausted, continue to close. Since 1965, 81 collieries have ceased operation, mainly in south east Northumberland, west Durham and west Cumbria.

7.8 Metal manufacturing is concentrated in Cleveland, north west Durham and west Cumbria. There has been a considerable run-down in manpower in the region in recent years, with a male job loss of about 16,000 (just over 26 per cent) since 1965. In addition, job losses are occurring in electrical and heavy engineering, especially in Tyne and Wear, because of a lack of orders.

7.9 In shipbuilding and marine engineering, rationalisation and modernisation have caused significant job losses in the past, with a reduction of about 12,000 (20 per cent) in employment since 1965. There is, moreover, increasing concern over future orders because the world trade recession is leading to reduced demand for new shipping, particularly oil tankers. Ship-repairing is also in a depressed state; the main areas affected are Tyne and Wear, Cleveland and Barrow-in-Furness. This last town, where over half the work for males is provided by shipbuilding, is a classic example of an area which is over-dependent on a single industry.

7.10 The production of chemicals is largely concentrated in Cleveland. This industry is basically healthy and is likely to expand production, although being capital intensive there will probably be little change in employment.

7.11 The level of Gross Domestic Product per head in the North is considerably below the national average, and, with the high rate of unemployment, has been an important symptom of its economic difficulties for a considerable period. The unemployment rate has tended to be well above the national average over recent years, and within the Northern Region a number of areas (mainly those with Special Development Area status) have significantly higher percentages than the region as a whole.

7.12 While, as shown by the 1971 census, the region was becoming more attractive to in-migrants it remained subject to heavy out-migration, leaving it with the highest rate of net migration loss of all English regions – and also Scotland and Wales – during the period from 1966-71.

7.13 Of the measures employed by the Government to attract new industry, the continuous programme to construct factories on carefully selected estates in advance of requirements has been of special importance to the region. The New Towns of Washington, Aycliffe and Peterlee are providing focal points for new industrial growth and these also have factory building programmes.

7.14 The infrastructure and environment of the region has been improved, particularly over the last 12 years, but much remains to be done. A major road building programme, concentrating mainly on north-south communications, has increased the attractiveness of the area to industrialists. Most major industrial areas now have access to the main system of inter-urban roads although there are some exceptions (see paragraphs 7.22 and 7.35 below).

7.15 Although considerable progress has been achieved in reclaiming derelict land, with almost 10,000 acres cleared or approved for clearance, about twice as much such land remains to be dealt with.

7.16 Despite considerable progress in housing through slum clearance, new building and house improvements, nearly a fifth of the total regional housing stock, at the most recent analysis, still lacked a standard amenity such as a fixed bath, inside toilet or hot water. Measures to improve hospital facilities and medical care generally are in hand and it is hoped that the recent raising of the school leaving age will improve the flow of better educated school leavers which the region needs.

7.17 Although much has been done by successive Governments to attract new industry, encourage local expansion and improve the infrastructure, these efforts have only been sufficient to prevent further deterioration in the general economic situation of the region.

Development objectives

7.18 Over the next few years, the main objectives in respect of industry and employment are to continue to diversify the industrial base by the attraction of new industry and to help modernise and re-equip existing industry. A particular need is to replace jobs lost by industries which are declining or can be expected to decline, for example in the shipbuilding areas of Tyne and Wear and Cleveland, and to diversify the industrial base of those areas which are heavily dependent on industries such as iron and steel manufacturing and where rationalisation is likely to occur, such as North West Durham, Hartlepool and West Cumbria. The region will also encourage the activities of companies which supply installations and equipment for the offshore oil and gas operations in the North Sea.

7.19 The continued provision and development of a wide selection of well-serviced industrial sites is a necessary part of any industrial strategy, particularly in those areas where rationalisation of industry is taking place or is imminent. There is also scope for the development of service industries and for encouraging office development to provide a greater range of opportunities for the increasing numbers of well-educated young men and women in the region.

7.20 There is good potential for the development of tourism in the region, which possesses attractive

rural and urban landscapes, mountainous and coastal areas. So far the potential for tourism has been only partially exploited in such areas as the Cumbrian coast and most of the Pennines. The provision of additional accommodation and other services as well as leisure activities, supported by vigorous promotional efforts can help the industry to expand.

7.21 An important role in the future of the region lies in the improvement of the environment and the economy of inner-urban areas, (where there is a high incidence of poverty and deprivation), the continued reclamation of derelict land, and improvement of the housing stock and social amenities of the region as a whole.

7.22 Despite the considerable progress in communications, especially the creation of an up-to-date road network in the north east, there is a need to improve east-west roads and access to areas such as West Cumbria, including Barrow-in-Furness, and West Durham, to create integrated communication systems for the major urban areas such as Tyne and Wear and Cleveland, to improve regional airports, and to provide better dock facilities and more container terminals.

7.23 Training and retraining are an important factor in future development. The decline in many of the region's traditional extractive and manufacturing industries has displaced many manual workers who were either unskilled or who had skills not required by the newer industrial processes which were introduced to the region under regional development measures. In addition, by the nature of the region's industries, the workforce is heavily weighted with unskilled manual workers.

7.24 In order to match the needs of incoming industry, to cater for technical changes in industry and to build up a more balanced occupational structure, a programme of further training and retraining is necessary at all levels; this is needed to facilitate the transfer of those affected to other work, to equip the high proportion of unskilled among the unemployed for the opportunities developing in the region, and generally to rectify the imbalance in the unskilled to skilled ratio in the labour force.

Development measures

7.25 An independent strategy team has been commissioned to prepare a report which should be ready for submission to the commissioning parties for their consideration early in the New Year.

7.26 Meanwhile a number of specific measures or projects are either under way or are planned so that current development objectives can be achieved, at least in part.

7.27 The Government has a policy of reviewing land requirements for industry in the region and is currently concerned with meeting the potential needs of a number of areas, for example South Tyneside and Wearside. During the course of 1975, 3 advance factory programmes were announced for the region, comprising 39 factories with a total area of almost 600,000 square feet; all of these factories are expected to be completed by the summer of 1977.

7.28 The British Steel Corporation's plans for the creation of a new steel complex at Redcar are at present being implemented. The latest stage (IIB) includes a new 10,000 tonnes-per-day blast furnace. As ECSC loan has been arranged in respect of the full IIB scheme. Other plans for the complex will be announced later.

7.29 The National Coal Board have announced plans within the last two years to invest more than £21m in Northumberland and Durham collieries, most of which will be spent on the development of pits along the coast. There are also plans to increase the amount of opencast coal mining in the region.

7.30 Considerable investment is being undertaken by chemical companies in the region; for example, Imperial Chemical Industries, with their petrochemical and agricultural divisional headquarters on Teesside (Cleveland), have over the last two years announced capital investment projects totalling £250m for their Billingham and Wilton sites, including the construction of a pipe-line connecting Wilton with the BP Chemicals complex at Grangemouth.

7.31 On the training side, the region is participating in the national effort in industry (through the Industrial Training Boards) and benefits from the increased resources devoted to the Training Opportunities Scheme administered by the Training Services Agency. Many skillcentres have been provided by the Agency and there continues to be notable progress in the provision of courses at Colleges of Further Education, employers' establishments etc.

7.32 Among the types of infrastructure scheme already granted aid by the European Commission from the European Regional Development Fund are the construction of berths and quays on the Tees and at Hartlepool, the provision of services and roads to industrial estates, and the preparation of industrial sites. Similar types of schemes by local authorities and other agencies are at present being prepared for submission for Fund aid.

7.33 The Kielder Reservoir scheme is due for completion in 1979/80. Water stored in the new reservoir under construction in the valley of the North Tyne will be used to regulate flows in the rivers Tyne, Wear and Tees to support all-the-year-round abstractions which will be needed to satisfy the forecast growth in the demand for water for industry. The construction of the associated Tyne-Tees aqueduct is designed to abstract water from the River Tyne near Riding Mill and convey the water south to the rivers Wear and Tees, thus regulating their flows. The scheme will provide an extra 200 million gallons of water per day and will aid the diversification of the industrial structure of a large part of the region by ensuring water supplies are available for new industry and the expansion of existing firms.

7.34 A major main drainage scheme for the lower reaches of the River Tyne, estimated to cost £50m is now well under way and a start has been made on a comparable scheme for the River Tees in Cleveland.

7.35 In Cleveland there are major gaps in the primary road network. The industrial areas on the west coast and at Barrow-in-Furness in Cumbria are rather remote from the M6 motorway: however, the improvements already being carried out and those proposed to the A66 and A590 roads will greatly help to overcome this problem. Work has started on the construction of the Tyneside Rapid Transit System (the Metro) which is estimated to cost £160m. The scheme, which will greatly facilitate the mobility of labour in the Tyneside conurbation, is expected to be completed by mid-1980.

7.36 Up to mid-1976 schemes costing over £20m for reclamation of derelict land had been approved for Government grant, and further schemes are under consideration.

(b) ENGLAND – YORKSHIRE AND HUMBERSIDE

Description

7.37 The Yorkshire and Humberside Region consists of the counties of North, West and South Yorkshire and the county of Humberside. It covers an area of 1,420,000 hectares, has a population of 4.9 million, a work-force of 2.1 million and accounts for 8.1 per cent of the United Kingdom's Gross Domestic Product. Unemployment in June 1976 was 0.12 million, 5.7 per cent of employees.

7.38 The whole of the region is an Assisted Area with much of the northern part (30 per cent) being classified as a Development Area and the rest having Intermediate Area status. Parts of the region in the west and north east are less favoured agricultural areas.

Problems

7.39 Over 70 per cent of the regional population is in the heavy industrialised West Yorkshire and South Yorkshire counties, which include the cities of Leeds, Bradford and Sheffield and contain large areas of urban and mining dereliction.

7.40 Parts of the region suffer from continued, though reduced, over-dependence on the coal, steel and textile industries, and from the difficulty of introducing more diversified job opportunities in such areas. In textile areas of *West Yorkshire* obsolete stone built, multi-storey factory buildings are ill-suited to modern production line methods, but their removal is expensive and their sites are often too small for modern development, while the fact that the industries are situated in the narrow Pennine valleys precludes development on alternative flat sites. In these areas net outward migration, often of young people, remains a serious problem, although unemployment percentage rates remain deceptively low. Between 1965 and 1975 nearly 60,000 jobs in wool textiles were lost.

7.41 *South Yorkshire* is heavily dependent on the basic industries of coalmining and metal manufacture (mostly steel) where rationalisation and reorganisation have also resulted in considerable job losses. More diversification of industry is needed, but severe dereliction dating from the 19th century tends to discourage new modern industries from settling there.

7.42 On *Humberside*, rising unemployment, a succession of serious industrial closures, the threat of further redundancies in the important fishing and associated industries, and the area's isolation from other industrial areas have created a serious situation and more jobs are urgently needed.

7.43 *North Yorkshire's* main problems are those associated with slowly declining rural population in some areas and, on the coast, a tourist industry with a short season and an increasingly uncertain future.

Prospects

7.44 The region has certain advantages which, in the medium and longer term, will help to offset these disadvantages. They include a central position on the country's main communication network, a large and varied skilled workforce, a strong manufacturing base, proximity through the Humber ports with the other countries of the Community, and important office centres in Leeds and Sheffield. The region possesses 5 universities and 3 polytechnics.

7.45 In industry Government financial assistance has been widely used to help expanding local and incoming firms, both in the manufacturing and service sectors; many of these should make a lasting contribution to the economic wellbeing of the region. In communications, the motorways built in the last 5 years have resulted in a number of new industrial estates being established at access points, and this process is likely to continue. The expanding motorway network has also helped to establish Yorkshire as a national distribution point, while the completion of the M62 during 1976 has developed the concept of an east/west trading and industrial axis to rival the long established north/south industrial axis in the United Kingdom. Progress has also been made on the environmental front – particularly in the virtual completion of the clean air programme in major cities like Sheffield, and in the rebuilding of town centres. On the other hand, much work remains to be done in all fields if the regional objectives are to be achieved within the foreseeable future.

Development objectives

7.46 The primary objective of the region is to increase its long term economic prosperity so that it becomes capable of generating self-sustained growth without external help. This will be best achieved on the industrial side by giving priority over the next 10 years to measures aimed at encouraging more industrial investment, thus helping to safeguard existing jobs and develop new ones (it is accepted that the main centres of population in the region will continue to have the best prospects of attracting industrial and service industry development, although smaller centres would be suitable for smaller scale enterprises–) and on the infrastructure side by completing the basic communication network within the region.

7.47 More detailed industrial objectives are: to reinforce and diversify its manufacturing and primary industries; to encourage the development of ancillary services and tourism; to strengthen the services sector and to strengthen the region's management decision centres. These measures should help to improve overall job quality and widen the range of employment opportunities – particularly in those areas affected by the contraction of the traditional industries.

7.48 As far as the environmental objectives are concerned, particular importance is attached to improving training for employment in industry, and to infrastructure works facilitiating industrial development.

Measures for development

7.49 Examples of current major industrial projects which will aid the region's recovery and which are either being financed by the public sector or which have been (or could be) assisted by Government finance are:

(a) Public Sector

i The Selby Coalfield
The development of major new coal deposits at Selby over the next 12 years at an estimate cost of more than £400m.

ii British Steel Corporation
BSC plans to invest over £200m in the Sheffield and Rotherham areas between 1974 and the early 1980s.

iii The Manpower Services Commission
The Manpower Services Commission, a Government agency, will transfer its headquarters from London to Sheffield over the next few years and provide more than 1,000 jobs.

iv Advance Factories and Industrial Sites
A Government programme of advance factory building costing some £9m is calculated to bring the region's stock of Government built factories to 700,000 sq ft by the end of 1977. The Government's holdings of land in the area suitable for industrial development will exceed 80 hectares by mid-1977.

(b) Private Sector

i BP Chemicals International Limited will build in the next 3 years a new acetic plant at Hull at a cost of more than £50m.

ii Reckitt & Colman Ltd (Pharmaceutical Division) plans a new pharmaceutical factory at Hull within the next 2 years at a cost of £7.5m.

iii Lindsey Oil Refinery Company Limited, within the next 3 years will build a fluid catalytic cracking plant at Immingham at a cost of nearly £70m.

iv International Harvester Limited is investing more than £5m over the next 3 years in the expansion of tractor manufacture at Doncaster and Bradford.

v The wool textile industry, largely centred in West Yorkshire, is engaged in a major rationalisation and modernisation programme, most of which will be completed by the end of 1977. More than 150 companies are participating and are investing about £80m.

Infrastructure

7.50 Top priority is for the completion of the main east/west road on South Humberside to Immingham and Grimsby by the early 1980s, and opening the Humber Bridge in 1978. In addition, two other main strategic routes – the completion of the M1 round Leeds to join the A1 north of the city, and an improved road between Sheffield and Manchester – are also required. Improvement of the secondary road system in South Yorkshire is important both for travel to work and for movement of goods and raw materials; improved facilities in the Humberside ports and other ports in the region are also required.

7.51 In areas where good industrial sites for new development are restricted by the topography, or by extensive dereliction originating in the Industrial Revolution, the clearing of obsolete industrial buildings and of spoil heaps and other dereliction is urgently needed. In some areas the provision of suitable water supplies or water treatment plants is necessary to accommodate industrial expansion. In tourist areas and coastal holiday resorts the provision of suitable accommodation and more facilities would help to develop this industry.

(c) ENGLAND – EAST MIDLANDS

Description

7.52 The East Midlands Region consists of the counties of Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. It covers an area of 1,218,000 hectares, has a population of 3.7 million, a workforce of 1.5 million and accounts for 6.3 per cent of the United Kingdom's Gross Domestic Product. Unemployment in June 1976 was 0.07 million, 4.9 per cent of employees.

7.53 Within the region three separate areas have Assisted Area status; all are Intermediate Areas. They are:

(a) the North Midlands, which is essentially the area of the Nottinghamshire/Derbyshire coalfield;
(b) North Lincolnshire; and
(c) the High Peak area of Derbyshire.

The Assisted Areas of the region have a population of 0.71 million and 0.3 million employees. Unemployment in June 1976 was 0.01 million, 5.3 per cent of employees. The only part of the East Midlands region having less favoured agricultural area status is West Derbyshire.

Problems

7.54 Each of the three Assisted Areas within the region has a different kind of problem and these are described in the following paragraphs.

North Midlands

7.55 The North Midlands has always depended on its coalmining industry. Since 1965 some 22,000 jobs – virtually half the industry's employment in the area – have been lost. Supporting industries, particularly some of those in the service sector such as railways, have experienced a corresponding decline. The run-down has far outstripped the supply of alternative job opportunities and the net result has been a fall in male job opportunities of about 17,000.

7.56 The coalmining industry continues to be of major significance to the area and employs about 23 per cent of the male working population. Much of the local engineering industry, which employs a further 20 per cent of the male working population, is linked with the coalmining industry. The service sector, excluding the construction industry, accounts only for some 26 per cent of the male working population compared with 37 percent in the service sector regionally. The employment base of the North Midlands, therefore, lacks diversity.

7.57 Unemployment has been persistently high and in June 1976 the male rate was 6.4 per cent (7,120) whilst the total rate was 5.4 per cent (9,312). In the North Midlands the situation is less severe than it would otherwise have been because some of the industries steered to the area over the past few years have started to recruit. There have been reports that other firms have cancelled or deferred their plans because of the present economic situation. Net outward migration has been about 1,000 people a year since 1961, although the rate has slowed down slightly in recent years.

7.58 Hilly topography and poor drainage create problems in the provision of infrastructure by restricting site selection, and there is a lack of adequate access roads to old industrial sites which could be redeveloped.

North Lincolnshire

7.59 North Lincolnshire is a rural area with a scattered population and no major settlements other than small market towns and coastal resorts. It is mainly dependent on agriculture and associated industries and on the tourist trade. The result is a highly unstable employment situation. Many defence establishments which have provided employment over the years have recently been run down. Manufacturing industry accounts for only 27 per cent of male jobs. In most of the employment centres one or two manufacturing establishments predominate and, as the closure of some of these establishments recently has shown, this makes the local economy extremely vulnerable. The isolation of the centres of population makes travel to work between towns impracticable and tends to increase unemployment. In June 1976 8.2 per cent of the male employees were unemployed, but because of the seasonal nature of employment in the area the winter figures are considerably higher; in the worst affected area last January, over 20 per cent of the males were unemployed.

The High Peak

7.60 Much of the High Peak area consists of hilly country scheduled as a National Park and containing a number of small towns and communities with a total population of 80,000. There are few manufacturing units and they are concerned mainly with textile production. Mineral working is of importance, employing about 9 per cent of working males.

Objectives

7.61 Although the three Areas differ considerably in their characteristics they share a common need for additional job opportunities and for improvements to their infrastructure.

7.62 In the North Midlands, there must be continuing efforts to improve and vary the industrial structure of the area. Reclamation of derelict land and colliery sites is of vital importance to this. The most immediate infrastructure needs are for improvements to foul and surface water drainage, sewerage, gas and water supplies, access and distributor roads.

7.63 In North Lincolnshire, new sources of employment are needed, including the provision of advance factory units. Increased water supplies and sewerage capacity need to be provided in some areas.

7.64 The High Peak is noted as a tourist area and there is potential for development, the most notable project being for the restoration of thermal baths at Buxton. The major need, however, is for industrial regeneration by the replacement of derelict industrial and commercial buildings.

Measures

7.65 Industrial renewal through the reclamation of derelict land for industrial development, the provision of modern industrial buildings and broadening the employment base is relevant to each of the region's Assisted Areas. Infrastructure and other development proposed by the North Midlands local authorities during the period 1977-79 includes 12 new industrial sites and extensions to others already in use. In North Lincolnshire some improvements in water supplies and sewerage capacity are planned for 1977-79. In the High Peak area there are proposals to develop industrial sites during 1977-79, including the provision of mains services and access roads.

(d) ENGLAND – SOUTH WEST

Description

7.66 The South West region consists of the counties of Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, the Isles of Scilly, Somerset, Avon, Wiltshire and Gloucestershire. It covers an area of 2,366,000 hectares, has a population of 4.2 million, a workforce of 1.6 million and accounts for 7 per cent of the United Kingdom's Gross Domestic Product. Unemployment in June 1976 was 0.1 million, 6.3 per cent of employees.

7.67 The most western parts of the region have Assisted Area status:

(a) most of Cornwall, North Devon and the Isles of Scilly are Development Areas; and
(b) the rest of Cornwall and West Devon are Intermediate Areas.

Parts of Cornwall, Devon and Somerset are less favoured agricultural areas. The Assisted Areas of the Region cover 728,000 hectares with a population of 0.8 million and 0.3 million employees. Unemployment in June 1976 was 0.02 million, 8.8 per cent of employees.

Problems

7.68 Within the region as a whole, the extent of industrialisation declines as distance increases from the national centres of population and markets. The problems of the South West Assisted Areas are mainly the problems of underindustrialisation, resulting from their peripheral location, rather than from decline of existing manufacturing industries. Specifically:

(a) individual settlements tend to be small and dispersed and have too few employers to enable decline in one firm to be offset by expansion in others;
(b) individual localities do not have an industrial structure large enough to support subcontracting and other ancillary firms, or an adequate industrial infrastructure;
(c) the range of job opportunities is too narrow, so that workers (particularly the young and

better educated), commute long distances or migrate. Moreover, the range of available skills is restricted, activity rates are well below national averages and earnings are similarly markedly below the national average;

(d) the area is remote from major markets and has poor communications.

7.69 There are some features of actual or potential decline of existing industry. The manufacturing sector is relatively small (25 per cent of employment) and the activities of the firms concerned are often related to local materials, markets or expertise, or are otherwise limited in their opportunities for growth. Plymouth, the largest town in the South West Assisted Areas, with a population of 310,000 is over-dependent on the Naval Dockyard. The shipbuilding and repairing industries are dominant employers in Falmouth and Bideford.

7.70 The settlement pattern of West Cornwall was created by the tin and copper mining industry, most of which was lost to new sources of production in Malaysia and elsewhere a century ago; substantial dereliction remains from this. There has been a small but important recovery in recent years. Changes in the holiday market – the South West is Britain's most popular holiday area – and in agriculture have reduced employment in these sectors in recent years. Moreover, some of the new manufacturing units introduced since 1966, or which had expanded since 1966, often drawn from the prosperous industries of the past decade, have suffered relatively worse during the current recession than the older industries of other Assisted Areas. Construction and the service trades have recently done less well than formerly. For these reasons, the level of unemployment in the South West Development Area has been markedly higher than the national Development Area average since September 1975, some localities being particularly badly affected.

7.71 The infrastructure problems which hinder industrial and tourism development in the South West Assisted Areas result from :

(a) the cost of developing sites suitable for industrial use in an area of difficult topography and considerable natural beauty;

(b) the inadequacy of communications serving this remote part of Britain, despite expenditure in recent years on major improvements to strategic roads;

(c) the seasonal demands imposed by tourists both on communications and on water supplies and sewerage services.

Development objectives

7.72 The overall objectives in the South West Assisted Areas are:

(a) to encourage and assist non-manufacturing elements (tourism, agriculture, fishing, mining, office developments) to adapt and develop their potential, and to improve the quality of the employment they offer;

(b) to encourage and assist the expansion, with greater diversity, of the manufacturing sector, providing at the same time for modernisation and other improvements to the security of existing manufacturing employment; and

(c) to remedy the deficiencies of infrastructure which handicap development.

Development measures

7.73 Much of the need to expand and diversify the manufacturing sector can only be served by attracting new enterprises, especially projects not seriously affected by the peripheral location. It is important to phase the introduction of new projects within the capacity of local labour markets to absorb them without serious damage to existing enterprises. The absence of a local pool of generalised skills causes special need for training; incoming projects frequently need to bring a nucleus of key workers to establish initial production and to train and supervise local recruits.

7.74 The weaknesses in infrastructure point the way to the objectives of development measures for the Assisted Areas. The availability of serviced industrial sites is one element. The difficulty of identifying acceptable sites has already been mentioned; some may be made available by the reclamation of derelict mining land. The sites are expected to continue to be provided in almost all instances by the local authorities. Some Government advance factories will be included in the national programme.

7.75 Following the improvements to strategic road links with the rest of Britain, there is a need to improve the feeder roads to settlements off the primary routes. One such link is from the M5 motorway to the growing Barnstaple-Bideford area of North Devon. Access roads to industrial sites also need improvement. Main line and some branch line railway services also need to be improved.

7.76 The drought during 1976 has shown especially clearly the need to improve water supplies and sewerage, not least to meet the demands imposed during the holiday season. Increased expenditure is planned and in some areas remedial schemes are needed before further major development takes place.

(e) ENGLAND – WEST MIDLANDS

Description

7.77 The West Midlands Region consists of the counties of Hereford and Worcester, Salop, Staffordshire, West Midlands Metropolitan and Warwickshire. It covers an area of 1,301,000 hectares, has a population of 5 million, a workforce of 2.3 million and accounts for 9.2 per cent of the United Kingdom's Gross Domestic Product. Unemployment in June 1976 was 0.13 million, 5.5 per cent of employees.

7.78 The only part of the region having Assisted Area status is the extreme north west of Salop, the Oswestry Intermediate Area, part of which, with north east Staffordshire, south west Hereford and Worcester and some of the south and west of Salop, is also a less favoured agricultural area. The Assisted Areas of the region cover 45,000 hectares with a population of 0.04 million and 12,400 employees. Unemployment in June 1976 was 7 per cent of employees.

7.79 A great proportion of these registered as unemployed is over 40, some being disabled exminers. Agriculture is still important, employing 8 per cent of the insured employees – a larger proportion than any of the individual manufacturing sectors. The main manufacturing sectors are food and drink (7.5 per cent), mechanical engineering (6.1 per cent) and metal industry (2.6 per cent) while the service sector accounts for 67 per cent of the total of insured employees.

Problems

7.80 The two main centres of population in the Oswestry Intermediate Area are the towns of Oswestry and Ellesmere, small market towns between the flat agricultural land of central Salop and the foothills of the Welsh mountains. The Intermediate Area is bounded on three sides by the Welsh Development Area and is rather isolated from the main industrial centres of the West Midlands. Severe job losses resulted over several years from the successive closures of the British Railways' workshops, the Ifton Colliery and some large military establishments which caused the level of unemployment to rise above the national average and it has continued to be unacceptably high. The area experiences a small net loss from migration.

Development objectives

7.81 Oswestry differs from most Assisted Areas, essentially being rural and isolated. Its structure is such that it makes sense to concentrate resources in the two main centres of population. The area's main objective is to keep a steady build-up of employment by encouraging smaller and medium sized developments. A major handicap is the lack of existing vacant industrial premises and the resources to build advance factories. Such premises are important in enabling an area to attract small mobile projects, and the lack of them has meant the loss of several potential new developments.

Development measures

7.82 The main contribution to the economic development of the Oswestry Intermediate Area is likely to result from the provision by the local authority of an industrial estate and from the reclamation of derelict land in the area. The Department of Industry owns a site on the Industrial Estate on which an advance factory is at present being erected. Because of the location and relatively small population of this Intermediate Area no major road schemes are planned.

(f) ENGLAND – NORTH WEST

Description

7.83 The North West Region consists of the counties of Lancashire, Cheshire, Greater Manchester and Merseyside. It covers an area of 799,000 hectares, has a population of 6.75 million, a workforce of 3 million and accounts for 11.1 per cent of the United Kingdom's Gross Domestic Product. Unemployment in June 1976 was 0.2 million, 7.1 per cent of employees.

7.84 The region is divided into two Assisted Areas:

(a) the Merseyside Special Development Area, and

(b) the North West Intermediate Area.

Part of the region is also a less favoured agricultural area.

Problems

7.85 The region contains one of the oldest industrial complexes in Europe. Many industrial premises and much of the infrastructure are in need of renewal. Dependence on older industries has intensified the structural problems created by national economic changes. Over the last 20-25 years all parts of the region have suffered losses of substantial employment opportunities in textiles, clothing, coal mining, metal manufacture, port and inland distribution, shipbuilding and ship repairing. Technological and market changes have also created redundancies in newer industries such as electronics, electrical engineering and machine tools. Industrial recession and reductions in labour force have more recently affected this heavily industrialised region disproportionately. The region has had some success in generating or attracting alternative sources of employment growth including advanced technology in manufacturing and research and development services, and in sophisticated service activities. The region as a whole has a diverse economy but this is not true of individual areas within it. The scale of contraction has been large and job losses have not been made good. The area urgently needs new investment.

Merseyside

7.86 The problems have been worst in the Merseyside Special Development Area. Changes in shipping patterns have affected the Port of Liverpool which is at a geographical disadvantage compared with eastern and southern ports for trade with Europe, not compensated in recent years by its other world market connections. Moreover, modernisation and rationalisation within the Port and its ancillary services and by major users such as the oil industry, and decline in some port related industries and services have brought about a major contraction of employment in the inner parts of the conurbation. The new towns and suburban peripheral areas have been the obvious areas for new industrial development such as the motor industry. This pattern of development has left the inner area with less employment than is needed by its present population. The problem is aggravated by old and inadequate industrial buildings in an outworn urban environment.

7.87 The Merseyside Special Development Area over recent years has had the most persistent record of high unemployment in Great Britain. In June 1976 there were some 81,000 registered as unemployed. The rate of unemployment at 10.7 per cent was almost twice the United Kingdom rate of 5.7 per cent while the male rate of 12.9 per cent compared with a United Kingdom figure of 7.1 per cent. The concentration of unemployed is heavy in the central area of Merseyside and the rate is estimated as grossly in excess of that elsewhere.

7.88 The Port of Liverpool, for all its employment losses, remains a key element in the economic life of both Merseyside and the region.

Rest of the Region

7.89 In the rest of the region the employment decline arises from (a) rationalisation of the heavy electrical engineering, steel and machine tool

industries and (b) job losses in textiles, clothing, footwear and coalmining.

7.90 There is a massive legacy of outdated and poorly sited industrial buildings, obsolete and inadequate infrastructure and an old and unattractive urban environment. As in Merseyside the problems are most acute at the centre of the older towns, where the buildings and services are at their oldest and decline has led to a reduction in local financial resources. Although modernisation of many urban centres is proceeding gradually, a large task of renewal still lies ahead. A particular problem is the replacement of water and sewerage systems.

7.91 Unemployment has been kept for the most part below excessive levels by outward migration and reduced activity rates, but there is some high local unemployment, in areas which include:

(a) East Lancashire (Blackburn, Burnley and district) with 50 years of textile decline and outward migration.
(b) North Lancashire (Lancaster and Morecambe) which is relatively isolated, with a small and vulnerable employment base and high unemployment.
(c) the Lancashire coastal areas (Fylde and Southport) with high unemployment, dependent on seasonal activities and deep sea fishing.
(d) the towns to the west of Manchester, which have suffered decline in coal and steel employment, have areas with substantial dereliction and, in Wigan, high unemployment, and
(e) the towns to the north and east of Manchester which are still vulnerable to decline in employment in the textile industry and have problems of old and decaying industrial buildings (the latter problem and general industrial decline extend into the centre of Greater Manchester).

Prospects

7.92 In the region as a whole the size of the population appears to have passed its peak. The substantial outward migration flow of many years standing is expected to be reinforced by a falling birth rate. The age structure however implies a growing labour force over the next 15 years.

7.93 Employment prospects in the next 3 years are poor. Industry generally will be pressing for more effective use of manpower. There are still vulnerable sectors in Merseyside including shipbuilding and port activities and in the rest of the North West including textiles and some part of the aerospace industry. Growth in the services sector will no longer substantially off-set the decline in manufacturing manpower and there are other sectors where employment is at particular risk.

Development objectives

7.94 The main objectives of the region are to improve stability of employment and to create the right conditions for longer term growth. Career and skilled opportunities for young people are particularly needed and these should be supported by training facilities to improve individual potential as well as to meet the requirements of employers.

Development measures

7.95 Investment by private sector over the next 3 years is likely to include, among manufacturing industries, food and drink, chemicals and related industries, metal forming, all types of engineering, textiles, paper and rubber, and in the services sector, distributive, office and research and development operations and some tourism.

7.96 Priority for projects creating and maintaining employment will be given to Merseyside and this will be supported by a general programme of advance factories throughout the area including Bromborough, Knowsley, Speke, St Helens and Gillmoss. More emphasis will be placed on the needs of central Merseyside, where action to sustain existing industrial employment by modernisation of plant and buildings and to encourage new enterprise, will be complemented by advance factory building in areas such as Sandon Dock, Liverpool and Rockferry, Birkenhead. Throughout Merseyside but particularly in the inner area the provision and servicing of industrial sites will be necessary, combined with the renewal of basic services.

7.97 Virtually all parts of the rest of the region need employment-creating projects. Advance factory building will be undertaken at focal points where employment needs are greatest or where modernisation of industrial property is most needed: these include Lancaster, Fleetwood, Blackpool, parts of East Lancashire and parts of the Greater Manchester area. The preparation and servicing of industrial sites whether for new employment creation or the resiting of modernised industry will be required in all parts.

7.98 The whole region has many acres of former mining and industrial land now in need of reclamation so that it may be put to use for new industrial sites. The programme of development of open-air leisure facilities must be accompanied by cultural developments to improve the attractiveness of the region.

7.99 Road, rail, air and sea communications need to be adapted to the developing needs of the region. For the Port of Liverpool in particular, which is a major employer in Merseyside, new and replacement facilities are necessary. Access to and from east coast ports is also an important strategic consideration even though the full effects of EEC membership on the traditional patterns of trade have yet to be realised. Within the region the road construction programme will contribute to maintaining and increasing employment by completion of high grade access to the docks, provision of direct access to new industrial sites, modernisation of road access and creation of links to the national motorway network, and general relief of congestion, for both commercial and environmental reasons, in the towns.

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Parliament

Monday, 7 February

Government's shipbuilding interests

William Small (Glasgow, Garscadden) asked for a statement on proposals for the management of the government's shipbuilding, shiprepairing and marine engine building interests.

Mr Varley's reply was published in *Trade and Industry* last week, page 347.

Chrysler

Michael Grylls (North West Surrey) asked for an elucidation of the meaning of the term arm's length basis as specified in the agreement of 5 January 1976 clause 7, sub-clause 10, with Chrysler with reference to the disclosure of the transfer of products and charges for services between companies in the Chrysler (UK) Group and other companies in the Chrysler Corporation Group.

Mr Williams said: 'For the purposes of the agreement, arm's length basis is taken to mean that the two parties engaging in a commercial transaction are free to reach agreement on the terms of this transaction without constraint arising from common membership of a group of companies.'

Leeming Bar Industrial Estate

Sir Timothy Kitson (Richmond, Yorks) asked: 'What was the date of purchase of the Leeming Bar Industrial Estate; what was the cost of acquisition of the land; what has been the cost of developing the site; what has been the cost to the exchequer of financing this development; how many jobs have been produced on the site; and what is the cost per job?'

'The purchase of a site on the Leeming Bar Industrial Estate was completed on 4 October 1976, at a cost of £17,000,' said Mr Williams. 'Site development work has cost £9,000 and two advance factories at present under construction will cost £134,000. The department's costs are to be met from the Development Fund. Neither factory has yet been allocated to a tenant.'

Advertising by the profession

John Ellis (Briggs and Scunthorpe) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection what action he proposes following the reports of the Monopolies Commission in allowing the profession to advertise.

'I fully endorse the views of my predecessor, announced on 29 July and 6 August 1976, that solicitors, vets, and accountants should have greater freedom to advertise,' said Mr Hattersley. 'I regret that in discussion with the Director General of Fair Trading the professional bodies concerned have shown themselves reluctant to consider any significant change in their present practice. I urge them to heed the Monopolies Commission's finding and to reach an early agreement, in the public interest.'

Price code for investment

Mr J. W. Rooker (Birmingham, Perry Barr) asked for an estimate of relief given under the price code for investment in the past 12 months.

Mr Maclennan said that in the 12 months to November 1976 the Price Commission dealt with claims worth more than £700 million and covering investment expenditure worth about £2,000 million. 'However,' said Mr Maclennan, 'the constraints of the market will have reduced the extent to which claims for investment relief are taken up. Not all of the £700 million will therefore have been reflected in higher prices.'

Investment incentives

John Moore (Croydon Central) asked for a list of the government's investment incentives to industry since 1945 specifying briefly what they were, when they were offered and when they were discontinued.

Mr Williams said: 'Three main types of general incentive have been used since 1945. These are:

1 Initial allowances, which in effect accelerate depreciation provided for by the normal writing down allowances;
2 Investment allowances, representing a net addition to the sum allowable for depreciation by the normal writing down allowances; and,
3 Grants, a cash payment for a proportion of the cost of the capital investment.

'Tables 1 and 2 are taken from C. L. Melliss and P. W. Richardson: "The Value of Investment Incentives for Manufacturing Industry 1946 to 1974" in A. Whiting (Ed) *The Economics of Industrial Subsidies*, HMSO, 1976. They show the various incentives in force from 1945 to the present day and the dates on which they were changed. It will be noted that the basic incentives have not been changed since 1972.

'The tables exclude a number of special measures often designed for the assisted areas. For example, the various Distribution of Industry Acts and Local Employment Acts enabled discretionary assistance including loans to be given to companies in the assisted areas and provided for the building of government-owned advance factories which have generally been offered on favourable terms. In recent years a wide range of selective assistance has been made available under the 1972 Industry Act including regional selective assistance, a number of industry schemes, the accelerated projects scheme and the new selective investment scheme.'

Ministers

Department of Industry

Secretary of State: Eric Varley
Ministers of State: Alan Williams
Gerald Kaufman
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Robert Cryer
Leslie Huckfield

Department of Trade

Secretary of State: Edmund Dell
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Michael Meacher
Stanley Clinton Davis

Department of Prices and Consumer Protection

Secretary of State: Roy Hattersley
Minister of State: John Fraser
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State: Robert Maclennan

TABLE 1 Statutory grants and allowances for plant and machinery capital expenditure by manufacturing industry

Per cent

	National				Development areas	
Announcement date	Investment allowances	Initial allowances	Writing[1] down allowances	Grants	Initial allowances	Grants
24.4.45	0	20	15.3			
6.4.49	0	40	15.3			
10.4.51	0	0	15.3			
15.4.53	0	20	15.3			
6.4.54	20	0	15.3			
17.2.56	0	20	15.3			
15.4.58	0	25	15.3			
17.6.58	0	30	15.3			
7.4.59	20	10	15.3			
5.11.62	30	10	20			
3.4.63	30	10	20		100	10
17.1.66			20	20		40
1.12.66*			20	25		45
1.1.69*			20	20		40
27.10.70		35	25		100	
19.7.71†		55	25		100	
21.3.72		100			100	20‡

Notes:

[1] These were based on a number of rates varying according to type of asset up to 1966.

* The temporary grant increase of 1.12.66 was announced to be limited to expenditure between 1.1.67 and 31.12.68. 1.1.69 therefore refers to the date on which grants actually reverted to their previous levels.

† It was announced that this change would be of a limited duration applying to expenditure made before 1.8.73.

‡ Unlike the previous investment grants 1972 Regional Development Grants do not reduce the value of capital expenditure qualifying for tax allowances. The rate of grant is 22 per cent in special development areas.

TABLE 2 Statutory grants and allowances for industrial buildings capital expenditure by manufacturing industry[1]

Per cent

Announcement date	National		Development areas			
					Grants[2]	
	Investment allowances	Initial allowances	Investment allowances	Initial allowances	Lower	Higher
24.4.45	0	10				
10.4.51	0	0				
15.4.53	0	10				
6.4.54	10	0				
17.2.56	0	10				
15.4.58	0	12.5				
17.6.58	0	15				
7.4.59	10	5				
5.11.62	15	5				
3.4.63	15	5	15	5	25	
17.1.66	0	15	0	15	25	35
14.4.70*	0	30	0	40	25	35
27.10.70	0	30	0	40	35	45
21.3.72	0	40	0	40	20†	

Notes:

[1] Annual writing down allowances were 2 per cent before 5.11.62 and 4 per cent thereafter on a straight line basis.

[2] Grants up to 21.3.72 paid under Local Employment Act and discretionary on creation of additional employment and its level.

* It was announced that this change would be of a limited duration applying to expenditure made before 6.4.72. On 27.10.70 it was however stated that the development area allowance would continue indefinitely.

† 1972 Regional Development Grants apply to all industrial building in development areas and intermediate areas and unlike the previous investment grants do not reduce the value of capital expenditure qualifying for tax allowances. The rate of grant is 22 per cent in special development areas.

Movement in profit margins

Brian Sedgemore (Luton West) asked for a statement 'on the recent Price Commission report that the commission are unable to express any view on the movement in profit margins'.

Mr Maclennan answered: 'The Price Commission has stated that certain changes made to the Price Code last August make it impossible to continue to publish tables comparing the average profit margins of large companies in the latest quarter with average profit margin reference levels. They also stated that they would continue to try to rebuild the statistics. I understand and regret the difficulties, but I believe that it would have been wrong to have refrained from necessary modifications to the Price Code merely on the grounds of disruption to a statistical series.'

Marks of origin

Max Madden (Sowerby) asked about powers to stop goods, manufactured overseas, from being distributed nationally and internationally under UK trade marks or labels.

Mr Fraser told him: 'The Trade Descriptions Act 1972 prohibits the supply of imported goods bearing any UK name or mark, unless accompanied by a conspicuous indication of the country of manufacture, and the Trade Descriptions Act 1968 prohibits the importation and supply of goods bearing a false indication of origin.'

Retail price index

Questions on the retail price index were asked by Tony Durant (Reading North), Dennis Canavan (West Stirlingshire), Tim Rathbone (Lewes) and Ian Gow (Eastbourne).

Mr Hattersley replied: 'The retail price index for December showed an increase of 1.3 per cent over the previous month and an increase of 15.1 per cent compared with the same month a year earlier. The index has risen by 65.2 per cent since February 1974.'

Food prices

Nicholas Winterton (Macclesfield) asked by how much food prices have risen since February 1974.

Mr Maclennan answered that the food index rose by 74.5 per cent between 19 February 1974 and 14 December 1976.

Questions on the price of bread were put by Giles Shaw (Pudsey), Robin Corbett (Hemel Hempstead) and Sir George Young (Ealing, Acton).

Mr Hattersley replied: 'In January the average price of a large white sliced loaf was about 20½p, against 19½p in December. In some supermarkets prices did not rise by the 1p permitted at the beginning of January. In others prices were temporarily forced up by the action of some deliverymen. I am glad to say that this action has now ended. During recent discussions on prices I have met representatives of all interested parties, including both the Federation of Bakers and the National Association of Master Bakers, but I have no immediate plans for further meetings.'

Consumer advice centres

Richard Wainwright (Colne Valley) asked how much was granted by the DPCP to local consumer protection departments in respect of local consumer advice centres and prices information collection schemes since January 1976.

'To date, £531,422 has been paid towards consumer advice centres and £187,435 towards price surveys,' said Mr Maclennan.

EEC directive on contracts negotiated away from place of business

Kevin McNamara (Kingston upon Hull Central) asked for a statement on the proposed EEC directive for contracts negotiated away from the place of business.

Mr Fraser answered: 'I fully support the draft directive's main provision, that consumers who buy expensive goods and services at the door should be protected against sharp practice. But our attitude to the detail of the draft will need to take account of consultations my department is now conducting with representative bodies in the UK.'

Electrical equipment safety regulations

Sir John Hall (Wycombe) asked: 'What representations have been made to the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection by the British Electrical and Allied Manufacturers' Association Ltd about the unsatisfactory nature of the Electrical Equipment (Safety) Regulations 1975.'

Mr Fraser replied: 'I am aware that the association is critical of the regulations because they do not provide that compliance with standards shall be accepted as satisfying the prescribed requirements. The Consumer Protection Act 1961 under which the regulations were made does not enable this to be done. But I am considering, in the light of the many comments received in response to the consultative document on consumer safety issued by my department last February, whether to seek powers to include such provisions in regulations.'

Petrol price display

Mr A. P. Costain (Folkestone and Hythe), Ioan Evans (Aberdare) and Roy Hughes (Newport) asked questions on the voluntary agreement on petrol price display.

Mr Fraser answered: 'I have received a number of reports indicating a poor level of compliance with the voluntary agreement on petrol price display. Most of them, however, relate to a period last year when the agreement had only recently been settled. On my behalf the Office of Fair Trading has therefore asked local authority associations to help with a national survey this month. In the meantime my officials are preparing a draft order under the Prices Act 1974 with the same objectives as the voluntary agreement. Unless the survey demonstrates that the voluntary agreement has worked I shall immediately begin statutory consultations on the draft order.'

British Tourist Authority

Michael Brotherton (Louth) asked: 'What reductions in staff there will be in the British Tourist Authority after the setting up of the Scottish and Welsh Assemblies?'

Mr Meacher answered: 'Responsibility for overseas promotion of tourism will remain the responsibility of the British Tourist Authority. I do not expect its staffing requirements to be essentially affected by the transfer of responsibility to the Scottish and Welsh administrations for the two National Tourist Boards concerned, which are, of course, already separately staffed.'

UK export prices

Bryan Gould (Southampton, Test) asked: 'What is the December figure for UK export prices for manufactures in dollar terms; and, what would the figure be on the basis of the current rate of exchange?'

Mr Meacher answered: 'The index of UK export prices of manufactures in dollar terms for December 1976 is 181.6 (1970 = 100). If the exchange rate of 4 February 1977 had been used to convert the December sterling export price the figure would have been 185.6.'

Tuesday, 8 February

National anti-waste campaign

Mr Wainwright asked for a statement on the national anti-waste campaign in 1976.

Mr Cryer said: 'Essential groundwork has been undertaken to promote co-operation between those sectors that collect and process waste and industries that will ultimately use it. A campaign to re-utilise waste will rely to a large extent upon domestic refuse as a source material. Until mechanical sorting processes can be developed and established, it is intended to concentrate upon encouraging

voluntary collections of materials segregated by householders. In addition, steps are being taken to find further uses for used tyres, promote the use of recycled lubricating oil and the use of waste as a fuel, and develop a code of packaging. Further effort is being aimed, with the direct co-operation of trade associations, at increasing the recycling of industrial waste.'

Government shareholdings

Norman Atkinson (Haringey, Tottenham) asked the Secretary of State for Industry for a list of the companies in which the government has a shareholding, together with the names of the directors representing the public interest.

Mr Varley answered: 'In the industrial sectors for which my department is responsible, shares are held in the following companies:

Appledore Shipbuilders Ltd
Beagle Aircraft Ltd (in liquidation)
Cable and Wireless Ltd
Cammell Laird Shipbuilders Ltd
Govan Shipbuilders Ltd
John Hastie and Co Ltd (in Receivership)
John Hastie of Greenock (Holdings) Ltd
Kearney and Trekker Marwin Ltd
KTM Machine Tools (Holdings) Ltd
Marathon Shipbuilding Co (UK) Ltd
North East Coast Shiprepairers Ltd
Norton Villiers Triumph Ltd
SB (Realisations) Ltd
Short Brothers and Harland Ltd
Sunderland Shipbuilding and Engineering Ltd
Upper Clyde Shipbuilders Ltd (in liquidation)
Wolverhampton Industrial Engines Ltd.

'The appointment of directors to the boards of Cable and Wireless Ltd, Sunderland Shipbuilding and Engineering Ltd, Appledore Shipbuilders Ltd, North East Coast Shiprepairers Ltd, SB (Realisations) Ltd and Govan Shipbuilders Ltd receive my approval and my prior approval is required to appointments to the positions of chairman, chief executive and finance director at Cammell Laird Shipbuilders Ltd. I also approved the appointment of the chairman and chief executive of Norton Villiers Triumph Ltd.'

Aid to automation industry

Mr Gould asked if the Secretary of State for Industry had received any communication from the EEC Commission on the subject of the £25 million aid proposed for the automation industry.

Mr Williams said: 'HMG has received a formal letter dated 23 December 1976 from the commission announcing article 93(2) procedure and inviting comments within six weeks. Other member states have received similar communications.'

Anglo-French airliner projects

Mr Neville Trotter (Tynemouth) asked: 'What delay has occurred in the submission of the two working groups appointed after the October 1976 meeting of the Minister of State and his French counterpart to study international co-operation on the 160 and 200 seat airliner projects?'

Mr Huckfield answered: 'My hon friend the Minister of State for Industry and M Cavaille, the French Minister of Transport, agreed when they met on 2 November 1976 to invite their respective industries to prepare studies on collaborative possibilities in 160 and 200 seat aircraft slots within two months if possible. Because of market uncertainties and the uncertainties caused by delays over the Aircraft and Shipbuilding Bill this has not been possible. However we expect to receive these reports shortly.'

Nationalised Industries Overseas Group

Kenneth Clarke (Rushcliffe) asked 'What is the government's involvement in connection with the Nationalised Industries Overseas Group; what public funds are to be devoted to the financing of the group; and what are its precise terms of reference or statement of aims?'

Mr Dell answered: 'The government welcomes the formation of the Nationalised Industries Overseas Group which should provide better co-ordination and impetus to the efforts of the nationalised industries to work together and with the private sector, to the benefit of UK exports.

'The senior Industrial Adviser of my department has accepted an invitation to join the group. This will ensure a continuing dialogue between the group and the government. I understand that there will be no direct cost to public funds from the operations of the group. The group has published its objectives as follows:

> "To increase the UK's overseas earnings with particular reference to: direct exports; overseas consultancy and project management; turnkey projects; the scope for standardisation of plant orders placed with UK manufacturers, to help their exports." '

Oil barter arrangements

Mr T. H. H. Skeet (Bedford) asked how many companies in the UK have an oil barter capability to facilitate the export of British engineering manufactures; and this form of trading would be encouraged and to what extent oil barter arrangements constitute a barrier to trade in the negotiation of large contracts with certain Middle East buyers.

Mr Dell replied: 'The Iranian Government has indicated that the opportunities for British exporters in Iran could increase at this time if payment could be made in oil rather than in money. The implications are being considered by the government. I am not aware of any recent case where oil counter-purchase has proved to be a barrier to trade with Iran.'

ASEAN countries

Stanley Newens (Harlow) asked 'Which commercial treaties and agreements are at present in force to provide for commercial arrangements between the United Kingdom and each of the members of the ASEAN Alliance, namely, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand?'

'While we have air services, investment protection and double taxation agreements with some or all of the ASEAN countries, no commercial treaties or agreements of general application are in force,' said Mr Meacher.

Mr Newens wanted to know the total value of contracts underwritten through the Export Guarantee Credit Scheme to each of the members of the ASEAN Alliance since 1973.

Mr Meacher told him that it was not the practice to disclose figures of the proportion of UK exports to particular markets covered by ECGD or ECGD's commitments in individual markets. ECGD's amount at risk for this group of markets as a whole was at present approximately £395 million.

'What is the value of British investments in each of the member countries of the alliance.'

Mr Meacher answered: 'The information available relates to the book value of direct investment, excluding oil, banking and insurance, in Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand at the end of 1971, which was £1959 million, £19.5 million and £11.0 million respectively. The figures were given in Table 35 of Business Monitor M4 Overseas Transactions 1972 Part II, a copy of which is in the Library. Similar information in respect of the end of 1974 for all members of the ASEAN Alliance is due to appear in *Trade and Industry* shortly.'

Footwear imports and exports

Terry Walker (Kingswood) asked for figures on the value and volume of UK imports and exports of footwear during the years 1974, 1975 and 1976.

Mr Meacher gave the following information:

	Imports		Exports	
	Thousand pairs	£'000 cif	Thousand pairs	£'000 fob
1974	81,286	108,999	18,377	47,110
1975	79,081	123,103	17,179	52,760
1976	97,367	165,278	18,202	68,089

Price of tea

Frank Hooley (Sheffield, Heeley) asked how much of the increase in the retail price of tea in 1976 was accounted for by the increased price of tea in real terms at tea auctions and how much by the declining value of the £ sterling or other factors.

'In the 12 months ending December 1976 the retail price of tea rose by about 5½-6½p per ¼lb', said Mr Maclennan. 'Of this, 2p per ¼lb was attributable to the removal of the consumer subsidy. Much of the remainder may be attributed to the increase in the London Auction prices, which rose from about 63.1 to 101.8p per kilo during 1976 (ie from 7.2 to 11.5p per ¼lb), although fluctuations in first-hand prices do not immediately affect retail prices. London Auction prices are fixed in sterling and the 61 per cent increase during 1976 therefore includes the effect of the 20 per cent fall in the effective exchange rate for sterling. The Retail Prices Index was 15.1 per cent higher in December 1976 than in December 1975.'

Wednesday, 9 February

EEC and aid to industry

Mr Lamont asked whether all schemes of selective help to particular sectors of industry are cleared with the European Commission prior to their introduction.

'Yes Sir', said Mr Williams. 'The commission is informed of sectoral schemes prior to their introduction in accordance with our EEC obligations.'

UK trade

Mr Gould (Southampton, Test) asked for figures for the UK and the original six members of the common market showing the percentage increase in exports of machinery and manufactured goods to the EEC and other countries, in each of the first three quarters of 1976 and in October 1976.

Mr Meacher gave the available information as follows:

	Exports of machinery (1)				Exports of manufactured goods (2)			
	Percentage change on previous quarter							
	1976 1st quarter		1976 2nd quarter		1976 1st quarter		1976 2nd quarter	
	Intra-trade EEC	Other countries	Intra-trade EEC	Other countries	Intra-trade EEC	Other countries	Intra-trade EEC	Other countries
United Kingdom	2.3	7.6	0.5	−7.1	4.7	3.2	5.8	−1.3
Belgium/Luxembourg	8.1	−7.8	1.6	2.8	8.4	−7.1	9.3	9.8
France	4.8	−0.1	3.8	7.7	8.5	−0.6	6.1	9.1
German FR	−0.3	−5.9	7.4	2.6	9.5	−5.1	4.4	4.8
Italy	−15.0	−22.2	13.6	10.1	−3.9	−16.1	6.2	10.8
Netherlands	−3.8	−10.1	6.9	8.6	0.5	−6.1	7.2	12.8

(1) Machinery – SITC divisions 71 + 72.
(2) Manufactured goods – SITC sections 5-8.
This is the latest available information and is based on statistics in European Units of Account not seasonally adjusted published in the *Eurostat Monthly Trade Bulletin*.

Mr Gould also asked about exports of machinery and manufactures in terms of EUA for the latest three months for which figures have been published by the EEC; for comparison with the figures for the same three months for other EEC countries; and for each percentage increase on the first quarter of 1976.

Mr Meacher gave the following information:

	Exports of machinery (1)		Exports of manufactured goods (2)	
	1976 April-June		1976 April-June	
	Value EUA mil (3)	Percentage change on January-March	Value EUA mil (3)	Percentage change on January-March
United Kingdom	2,612	−5.0	7,842	1.0
Belgium/Luxembourg	793	2.1	5,361	9.5
France	2,513	6.3	8,925	7.7
German FR	5,991	4.5	17,392	4.6
Italy	1,690	11.4	6,008	8.6
Netherlands	924	7.7	4,358	8.9

(1) Machinery – SITC divisions 71 + 72.
(2) Manufactured goods – SITC sections 5-8.
(3) Not seasonally adjusted.
Source: *Eurostat Monthly Trade Bulletin.*

Mr Gould asked if the index of trade competitiveness made any allowance for changes in the UK competitiveness caused by the loss of tariff preferences in home and overseas markets over the past five years.

Mr Meacher replied: 'No explicit allowance for changes in tariffs is made in the compilation of the export competitiveness index, which is defined, for the published statistics, as the ratio of UK export prices of manufactures to a weighted average of those of our major competitors, both expressed in terms of US dollars. However, changes in tariffs may affect the export prices of both the UK and our competitors, and also the market pattern of trade, and, hence, the weighting used in compiling the index.'

Concorde

'What has been the total government expenditure on the Concorde project since its inception, including aircraft production to date?' asked Michael McNair-Wilson (Newbury).

Mr Huckfield answered that the net cost to the government of the Concorde project up to 31 December 1976 was £727 million.

Mr McNair-Wilson also asked for figures for the cost of post entry into service development of Concorde and for the production of the aircraft to date.

Mr Huckfield answered that the cost to the government of post entry into service development was £27 million up to 31 December 1976, and of production £289 million. The latter was offset by £119 million of receipts.

Trade with Arab countries

David Watkins (Consett) asked 'What proportion of imports from Arab countries is now covered by exports to those countries?'

'Figures on a balance of payments basis are not compiled for this group of countries', said Mr Meacher. 'On an overseas trade statistics basis, the value of UK exports (fob) to Arab countries* in 1976 was 73 per cent of the value of UK imports (cif) from these countries.'

Calculation of profits and profit margins

Dr Oonagh McDonald (Thurrock) asked for full details of the differences between the calculation of profits and profit margins for price control purposes by the Price Commission and the calculation of profits on accepted accounting principles.

Mr Maclennan answered: 'Profit margins calculated under the present Price Code may differ from those calculated for the purpose of companies' published accounts in the following major respects:

1 Profits on exports and certain other sales excluded from price control do not appear in profit margins for Price Code purposes;
2 As a partial move towards inflation accounting the Price Code permits depreciation charges to be raised by a factor of 1.4 if they have been based on historic cost valuations or on revaluations made before the price controls were introduced.
3 For the same reason the Price Code permits stock relief, equivalent to 70 per cent of any increase in the value of stocks, to be deducted from current profit margins.'

* Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, etc, Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Yemen Arab Republic, People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Sudan, Tunisia.

Thursday, 10 February

Grants to projects at Kirkby

Robert Kilroy-Silk (Ormskirk) asked how much public money has been provided in the form of grants to Albright and Wilson, Kirkby and Control Dataset, Kirkby.

Mr Williams gave the following information on grants paid in respect of projects at Kirkby:

Albright and Wilson	
Industrial Development Act 1966	
Investment grants	£174,858
Industry Act 1972	
Regional development grants	£30,571
Control Dataset	
Local Employment Acts	
Building grant	£2,400
Removal Grant	£5,500

Control Dataset will be refunding £1,440 of the building grant.

Government financial assistance

Dr McDonald asked for details of government financial assistance and the companies expected to be or already in receipt of grants or loans for this purpose.

Mr Williams answered that up to 31 December 1976 assistance had been made available under the Industry Act 1972 as follows:

£'000

	Loans	Grants	Equity
Section 1 (Payment of regional development grants)	—	946,400	—
Section 7 (Offers of regional selective assistance)	114,712	147,278	10,367
Section 8 (Offers of selective financial assistance)	65,875	210,154	40,512

Additional assistance has been given to the shipbuilding industry.

Mr Williams continued: 'Details of selective assistance offered and regional development grants paid are published regularly in *Trade and Industry* in accordance with the arrangements announced by my predecessor on 31 July 1974.'

National Enterprise Board

Doug Hoyle (Nelson and Colne) asked for an estimate of the funds available to the NEB in 1976-77, 1977-78, 1978-79 and 1979-80.

Mr Huckfield said: 'Cmnd 6393, "Public Expenditure to 1979-80", identified provision of £225 million for the NEB in 1976-77; Cmnd 6721-i, "The Government's Expenditure Plans, Part I", includes provision of £275 million for the NEB in both 1977-78 and 1978-79; "The Government's Expenditure Plans, Part II" will make provision for the NEB in 1979-80.'

The Price Commission

Dr McDonald asked if the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection was satisfied with the work of the Price Commission in controlling prices, 'in the light of the commission's statements that code profits are in many cases substantially lower than companies' published profits'.

Mr Maclennan answered: 'Unlike profits calculated under the Price Code, the profits shown in many company accounts make little or no allowance for inflation. Although the Price Code does not permit companies to reflect full replacement costs in their calcula-

tions of price increases and profit margins, amendments made to the code last August went some way towards controlling prices on the basis of a truer reflection of companies profitability.'

Invoicing for UK exports

Mr Gould asked: 'What proportion of manufactured exports is invoiced in sterling; what is the average delay between booking an order and shipment and between shipment and payment; and what has been the impact on export prices of: (a) exchange cover and (b) increased finance charges as a result of higher interest rates?'

Mr Meacher answered: 'A sample analysis of export documents for April 1976 showed that, in that month, 80 per cent of manufactured exports, by value, were invoiced in sterling. However, as the results of the analysis, which were published in *Trade and Industry* on 7 January 1977, explain, this may overstate the proportion of exports effectively priced in sterling.

'Information on the delay between booking an order and shipment is available only for the engineering industries. A survey conducted amongst firms in the mechanical, electrical, and instrument engineering industries showed that, in October 1975, the average lag was about six months. There is, however, substantial variation for the different products in these industries; further, the average lag is likely to vary with the economic cycle, according to the state of firms' order books.

'Information on the delay between export shipment and payment is provided by the analysis of the length of trade credit extended given in table 47 of Business Monitor M 4, *Overseas Transactions, 1974*.

'No reliable estimates of the effects on export prices of either exchange cover or higher interest rates are available.'

Friday, 11 February

NEB assistance to industry

Mr. Hoyle asked: 'What companies are receiving continuing assistance from the NEB in the years 1976-77, 1977-78, 1978-79 and 1979-80?

Mr Huckfield answered, 'Under direction from my rt hon. friend, under section 3 of the Industry Act 1975, the NEB may provide companies with selective financial assistance in accordance with the Industry Act 1972. My rt hon friend envisages giving one such direction in 1976/77, requiring the NEB to lend £30 million to British Leyland, in pursuance of his statement in the House on 21 July 1976 (OR Vol. 915 cols 501-2). In later years he may give further directions of a similar nature, but no annual amounts for such assistance have been determined.'

Whale meat

'What were the annual imports of whale meat in the years 1973 to 1976; and from which countries did they come?' asked Sir John Langford-Holt (Shrewsbury).

Mr Meacher told him that there had been no imports since 1973 when they were as follows:

	Metric tons	£'000
Norway	53	7
Angola	5	1
Canada	5	1
Total	63	9

Butter and beef imports

Figures were requested by Neil Marten (Banbury) on the imports in tons of butter and beef from Australia in 1972 and 1976.

Mr Meacher gave the following information:

Tons

	1972	1976
Beef (including veal)	67,394	9,418
Butter	28,115	4

Government sales

Catalogues which give details of the lots, conditions of sale, viewing times, etc, are available from the auctioneers from two weeks before and up to the day of the sale, price 20p, postage and packing 10p extra (postal orders only).

Ministry of Defence

Sales by auction

26 February 1977 – Furniture

Location
RAF Driffield, North Humberside

Auctioneers
Bartle and Son (Dept L), 52 Merrion Street, Leeds LS2 8JH (tel. 0532 450898)

A small sale of approximately 700 lots of household furniture and effects which will be sold as single items or in small quantities.

2 March 1977 – Miscellaneous stores

Location
The Embassy Suite, Balkerne Lane, Colchester

Auctioneers
Fenn Wright Garrod Tutner (Dept L), 146 High Street, Colchester, Essex (tel. 0206 46161)

Many items of service clothing and textiles including 300 carpets, white blankets, uniforms, etc. A large collection of office and household furniture, and other miscellaneous stores. A Harvester TD tractor with Bullgrader and a Weatherill hydraulic loading shovel.

8 March 1977 – Miscellaneous stores

Location
Ordnance Storage and Disposal Depot, RAOC, Ruddington, Notts

Auctioneers
Arnold and Son (Dept L), 13 Market Place, Burton-upon-Trent, Staffs DE14 1HD (tel. 0283 64657)

Stores lying at Ruddington and other depots and comprising aircraft and aircraft engine parts and spares, ground equipment, MT and electrical spares, machine tools, fork lift trucks, bicycles, boots, household and office furniture, photographic equipment, scrap metal, watches and a large collection of other miscellaneous items.

Wembley Auction Sales 1977

1 March 1977

View Days:	Day preceding and morning of sale
Location:	Department of the Environment Property Services Agency Supplies Store India Pavilion Exhibition Grounds Wembley, Middx. Tel. 01-903 2508
Description of Goods:	Office and Miscellaneous Furniture Engineering, Electrical, Canteen, Domestic and Other Equipment
Auctioneers:	Messrs. Fuller, Horsey, Sons and Cassell 52 Bow Lane London EC4M 9ET Tel. 01-248 7954
Catalogue:	Direct from the auctioneer price 10p each

Potential buyers are advised to refer to the official catalogue available direct from the auctioneers price 10p.

ENCIRCLE TI 395 ON PAGE 471 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

European community news

UK presses for agricultural price restraint

As EEC agricultural ministers began their discussion of the commission's proposals for 1977/78 agricultural prices this week (14 to 15 February), Britain called for a total prices package which reflected the maximum level of price restraint and progress in removing surpluses.

In a statement in Brussels on 14 February, Gavin Strang, Parliamentary Secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said, 'We have to take account of the needs of the producers faced with cost increases, of housewives who are suffering inflationary food price rises in all countries and of problems caused by surpluses, in particular the budgetary cost and waste of resources which they entail. It is no good producing food to go into the store.'

Britain, he explained, had to take the last two transitional steps this year to common prices. These steps were decided in the Treaty of Accession in 1972 and would add about 2 per cent to this country's food prices. The outcome of the discussions on the commission's 1977/78 agricultural price proposals could also add about 2 per cent.

Foreign ministers prepare for Portuguese visitor

During their 8 to 9 February council, EEC foreign ministers held a full discussion in preparation for the Portuguese Prime Minister's tour of community capitals, which started in London on Monday (14 February). Reporting to the Commons on 10 February on the outcome of the meeting, Anthony Crosland, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said Dr Soares' tour would end in Brussels on 12 March.

The council had agreed the lines of the helpful common response which member states would use with Dr Soares, taking account both of the political importance of a positive attitude towards Portugese aspirations for membership and of the economic and other problems which would have to be overcome. The community would need to hear Dr Soares' views before deciding on the next step, he said.

The council had also discussed the preparation of the community's mandate for negotiations with Spain to adapt the 1970 trade agreement between Spain and the EEC of six to take account of the three new members. The council set further work in hand and would return to this on 8 March.

The community position for the next meeting of the general committee of the Euro-Arab dialogue, held in Tunis on 10 and 12 February, was approved. The council reaffirmed the importance of the dialogue for the further strengthening of the close links already in existence between the two regions.

There was a brief review of progress of the commission's talks with Japan in various fields of trade relations. The council had agreed, Mr Crosland said, that the commisson should continue these talks and that the council would return to the subject at a later meeting.

On budgetisation of European Investment Bank external loans, he said there was general recognition of the urgent need to decide whether the guarantees for a number of European Investment Bank loans to third countries should be borne on the community budget, although the council had not reached a final decision. Additional economic and financial protocols to the EEC-Israel agreement were signed (see opposite).

It was agreed that work should continue on the community's position on the issues involved in the CIEC and that this should be discussed again at the council on 8 March. It was also agreed that officials should embark on an intensive programme of work on the common fund with a view to laying an agreed community position before the council on 8 March.

A number of separate fisheries questions were dealt with at the council, said Mr Crosland. 'I reported from the chair on our exchanges with the Soviet Union about the opening of negotiations on future fishing levels.'

Member states had agreed to keep each other closely informed about the action which each of them might take in its own waters to enforce the agreed limitations on the number of Soviet vessels permitted to fish between now and the end of March. 'I made it clear that British enforcement action would be taken steadily and firmly. The Poles and East Germans have provided lists of vessels to be licensed in this period. The Rusians have not done so, and their fishing is now illegal.'

The council had then discussed the internal fisheries regime. It became clear that agreement could not be reached at this stage on the quota levels proposed by the commission for 1977 as part of an interim regime; and discussions had turned to the specific conservation measures which the UK and Ireland had proposed for immediate adoption.

Subject to a Danish reserve there was agreement on a number of measures, including a ban on herring fishing in the North Sea from end-February to end-April, with the level of fishing thereafter to be determined on the basis of scientific advice. 'We hope that the Danish reserve will be lifted shortly,' Mr Crosland added.

The commission was asked to make proposals by mid-March on the compulsory use of larger mesh nets for certain species and on controlling the carrying of nets of different mesh sizes during a single voyage. However, there was no agreement on new stricter limitations on by-catches of certain fish or on establishing an area in which fishing for Norway pout would be banned at certain times. The latter measure was particularly important to the protection of immature white fish in the same area.

'We reserved our right to introduce nationally the measures on which agreement was not reached,' he said. The Irish government similarly had reserved their rights. Minister of State at the Foreign and Comonwealth Office, David Owen, had indicated that the British government needed to take action very soon indeed to control Norway pout fishing off north-east Scotland. 'We are re-examining also the precise limitations necessary on by-catches. We would be glad to reach agreement in the community on both of these measures if it is possible, but we cannot accept further delay in effective action. Our position was made clear on this in the council. We will need to be satisfied in any regulation that our right to take unilateral conservation measures on a non-discriminatory basis after seeking the agreement of the commission and to enforce such measures in our own waters is specifically recognised.'

Mr Crosland said that he had suggested to the council that progress on fisheries should be speeded up and that 'we should soon begin to look at some of the more basic issues which divide member states'. It was agreed, he said, that a high-level official working group should be set up to tackle both the short-term and longer-term questions. He hoped that this group would

help the council to move ahead faster and avoid becoming bogged down in some of the detail with which Ministers had had to deal at the 8 to 9 February meeting.

Political affairs committee in London

For the first time, members of the European parliament's political affairs committee held their quarterly exchange with EEC foreign ministers in London on 15 February. They were discussing progress made in political co-operation betwen member states following a statement by Anthony Crosland, president-in-office of the conference of community foreign ministers.

Before the meeting with foreign ministers, the committee's talks covered relations between the community and Israel and the community and Egypt, Jordan and Syria (the Mashraq countries).

Euronet expected to be operational end of 1978

Euronet, a data telecommunications network for the EEC, is expected to be operational by the end of next year.

Telecommunications administrations of the nine EEC countries, including Britain's Post Office, have unanimously selected a consortium of six independent companies which will act as Euronet's main system contractor.

The consortium is known as Sesa-Logica-Caradata-Italsiel-Christian Rousing-Sait. The decision to award the contract followed an exhaustive consultative procedure during which three multinational consortia were invited to submit a number of proposals.

Sesa-Logica will be responsible for providing equipment and software for Euronet's four computer-controlled packet switching exchanges and also for smaller network access units.

The packet-switching exchanges will be in London, Frankfurt, Paris and Rome while other network access points will be in Amsterdam, Brussels, Copenhagen, Dublin and Luxembourg. London will be the location of the network management centre.

Euronet will enable research centres, public bodies and other organisations in the nine member-countries to have immediate access to scientific and technical information held on computer stores, or databases.

Although it will initially be a private network, the system may eventually become a European public data transmission network.

Social fund support for NCC project

The National Computing Centre is to receive a grant from the European social fund to meet half the cost of undertaking a study on the effects of introducing computer-based data processing systems on employee attitudes and working skills.

The study, lasting one year, will be aimed primarily at small and medium-sized companies, and the NCC plans to invite the participation of some of their member organisations. The study is expected to result in guidelines to help staff, unions and management during computer development, and to pinpoint their information and training requirements in this connection. A report, including these guidelines, is expected to be delivered to the commission in November 1977, and work has already begun on the project.

UK representatives on consumers committee

Three UK representatives have been appointed to the newly-reconstituted EEC consumers consultative committee. They are Anthony Dumont of the Consumers Association, Croydon, Mr D. L. Wilkinson of the Co-operative Union, Manchester, and Mrs Evelyn Smith of the National Consumers Council, Cleveland.

Set up by the commission in September 1973, the committee has a three-year term of office. It has 25 members, 19 of whom have been appointed on a proposal from European organisations. Its task is to advise the commission on the formulation and implementation of policies and actions regarding consumer protection and information, either when requested to do so by the commission or on its own initiative. At a meeting of consumer organisations in Brussels in December last there was a renewed call for a more independent and public role for the committee.

MCAs on pigmeat 'too high' – Bishop

Monetary compensatory amount payments on imports of Danish bacon into the UK currently amount to £237 a tonne, said Edward Bishop, Minister of State at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, in a written Commons reply on 9 February.

He explained that the government estimated that these payments on pigmeat exported to the UK from other member states were approximately twice as high as they would be if the basis of calculation was changed so as to take account only of the impact which the green currency arrangements have on the cost of cereals to community pig producers and thus on their relative costs of production.

The recently-announced temporary subsidy for UK pig producers, said Mr Bishop, was set at a level which took account of the effect that the present monetary compensatory amount system had on their returns and the need to protect their incomes so as to halt the sharp decline in the UK pig herd.

More community news

Information on European community matters and about member states can often be found in other sections of *Trade and Industry*. For this week's additional news, turn to the following pages:

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EEC and Israel agree to co-operate

An additional protocol to the EEC-Israel trade agreement was signed on 8 February. The protocol provides for co-operation between the EEC and Israel with the aim of fostering complementarity between the two economies and, in particular, the industrialisation of Israel.

Certain areas of co-operation are defined in the protocol: in the industrial co-operation field, besides encouraging implementation of Israel's industrial development programme, the joint co-operation council is to study ways of improving contacts between each party's industrial policy-makers and firms and access to technological know-how; co-operation in the agriculture and fisheries sectors is also specified, as is co-operation in the fields of science, technology and environmental protection and encouragement of private investments which are in the interests of both parties.

The community has agreed to participate in the financing of projects designed to contribute to Israel's development and under a financial protocol, which was also signed on 8 February, the European Investment Bank is to make available 30 million European units of account for this purpose, in the form of loans.

General inquiries should be addressed to the Commercial Relations and Exports Division of the Department of Trade, tel 01-215 3472.

New legislation

The legislation listed below has been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* as indicated against each item. The *Official Journal* is now published in English and copies should be obtained from HMSO. Information about the items listed, in so far as other member states' requirements are concerned, is available to British exporters from Department of Trade, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel. 01-248 5757, ext. 7174/482/408). Other information may be obtained from the reference point given at the end of the item.

Common agricultural policy

The texts of the following regulations and directives which affect the various agricultural sectors in the EEC have been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities.*

Processed fruit and vegetables. Regulation (EEC) 188/77 laying down certain rules for the application of the system of minimum prices for tomato concentrates and amending regulations (EEC) 2055/75 fixing the coefficients to be applied to those minimum prices (*Official Journal* L25, 29 January 1977).

Sugar. Regulation (EEC) 189/77 laying down detailed rules for the application of the system of minimum stocks in the sugar sector (*Official Journal* L25, 29 January 1977).

Regulation (EEC) 190/77 fixing for the 1976/77 sugar marketing year the flat-rate amount provided for in the system of minimum stocks (*Official Journal* L25, 29 January 1977).

Cattle, beef and veal. Regulation (EEC) 191/77 amending regulations (EEC) 2036/74, (EEC) 2073/74 and (EEC) 2320/74 as regards the selling prices for certain beef held by intervention agencies and bringing forward the qualifying date for the sale of certain meat (*Official Journal* L25, 29 January 1977).

Regulation (EEC) 192/77 amending regulations (EEC) 1896/73 and (EEC) 582/76 as regards beef which may be bought into intervention in Germany, and coefficients in the beef sector (*Official Journal* L25, 29 January 1977).

Regulation (EEC) 257/77 correcting regulations (EEC) 1896/73 and (EEC) 582/76 as regards beef which may be bought into intervention in Ireland, and coefficients in the beef sector (*Official Journal* L34, 5 February 1977).

Live plants and plant products. Directive 77/93/EEC on protective measures against the introduction into the member states of harmful organisms of plants or plant products (*Official Journal* L26, 31 January 1977).

Animal health. Directive 77/96/EEC on the examination for trichinae (trichinella spiralis) upon importation from third countries of fresh meat derived from domestic swine (*Official Journal* L26, 31 January 1977).

Directive 77/98/EEC amending directives 64/432/EEC, 72/461/EEC and 72/462/EEC on health and veterinary problems (*Official Journal* L26, 31 January 1977).

Directive 77/99/EEC on health problems affecting intra-community trade in meat products (*Official Journal* L26, 31 January 1977).

Hops. Regulation (EEC) 208/77 amending regulation (EEC) 1350/72 on rules for granting aid to hop producers as regards the definition of areas (*Official Journal* L28, 1 February 1977).

Regulation (EEC) 209/77 amending regulation (EEC) 776/73 on registration of contracts and communication of data with respect to hops (*Official Journal* L28, 1 February 1977).

Milk and milk products. Regulation (EEC) 210/77 amending regulation (EEC) 2054/76 on the sale for export to third countries of skimmed-milk powder held by intervention agencies and intended for use as feed (*Official Journal* L28, 1 February 1977).

Oils, fats and oilseeds. Regulation (EEC) 217/77 amending regulation (EEC) 2938/76 adjusting the amount of the levies applicable to olive oil (*Official Journal* L30, 2 February 1977).

Regulation (EEC) 218/77 fixing the average world market price and the indicative yield for linseed for the 1976/77 marketing year (*Official Journal* L30, 2 February 1977).

Wine. Regulation (EEC) 219/77 amending for the third time regulation (EEC) 2115/76 laying down detailed rules for the import of wines, grape juice and grape must. This replaces the dates 31 January 1977 and 30 June 1977 in articles 8 and 9 of regulation (EEC) 2115/76 by 31 August 1977. (*Official Journal* L30, 2 February 1977).

Common customs tariff

The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L21, 25 January 1977 contains the text of regulation (EEC) 125/77 on the total or partial suspension of common customs tariff duties on certain agricultural products originating in Turkey.

Copies of the *Official Journal* L21, may be obtained from HMSO, price 70p plus postage.

Insurance

Freedom of establishment and freedom to supply services. *Trade and Industry* dated 7 January 1977 page 36, and 4 February 1977 page 309, carried articles about the first insurance directive adopted. The text of this directive, 77/92/EEC, on measures to facilitate the effective exercise of freedom of establishment and freedom to provide services in respect of the activities of insurance agents and brokers (ex ISIC group 630) and, in particular, transitional measures in respect of those activities, has now been published in *Official Journal* L26, 31 January 1977.

Further inquiries should be addressed to Miss S. E. Harding, Insurance Division, Department of Trade, Sanctuary Buildings, 16-20 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3DB.

EEC environmental measures relating to industry

This is a fifth published status list of those EEC environmental measures or proposals which should generally be of interest to industry. Previous lists were published in *Trade and Industry* of 11 April 1975, 29 August 1975, 30 January 1976 and 30 July 1976, and proposals covered there are not listed here. This list covers the period 1 August 1976 to 31 December 1976.

The terminology employed in the list is largely self-explanatory. The designation 'proposal' signifies that this is the version of the draft as formally submitted to the council by the commission: the terms[1] council directive, recommendation, resolution and decision refer to the eventual end product – the text finally agreed by member states.

The texts of adopted EEC directives and regulations are published in the 'L' (legislation) series of the *Official Journal of the European Communities* and the texts of commission proposals in the 'C' (information and notices) series. Thus texts will eventually be published twice – firstly in proposal form in 'C' series and later in final form in the 'L' series.

Readers requiring information on community work on environmental protection and improvement, as it relates to industry, should initially contact the appropriate Whitehall sponsoring division in the normal way. Readers will generally find that their trade association is fully up-to-date with events on the community front.

We shall publish the next list in August 1977 to cover the period 1 January 1977 to 31 July 1977.

[1] Articles 189-192 of the treaty of Rome explain these terms.

Subject	Status (where applicable)
On toxic and dangerous waste	Proposal for a council directive (OJ 19/8/76 vol. 19 no. C 194)
On the quality requirements for waters supporting freshwater fish	Proposal for a council directive (OJ 28/8/76 vol. 19 no. C 202)
Concluding a convention for the protection of the Rhine against chemical pollution and an additional agreement to the agreement signed in Berne on 29 April 1967 concerning the international commission for the protection of the Rhine against pollution	Proposal for a council decision (OJ 12/10/76 vol. 19 no. C 239)
The sixth modification of the council directive of 27 June 1967 on the approximation of the laws of the member states relating to the classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous substances	Proposal for a council directive (OJ 5/11/76 vol. 19 no. C 260)
On the approximation of member states' laws, regulations and administrative provisions on the protection of the health of workers occupationally exposed to vinyl chloride monomer	Proposal for a council directive (OJ 10/12/76 vol. 19 no. C 291)
On the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the member states relating to restrictions on the marketing and use of certain dangerous substances and preparations	Council directive of 27 July 1976 (OJ 27/9/76 vol. 19 no. L 262)
Adapting to technical progress the council directive of 27 June 1967 concerning the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to the classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous substances	Commission directive of 14 July 1976 (OJ 30/12/76 vol. 19 no. L 360)

Temporary suspension of the CCT

The Department of Trade has been notified by the EEC commission that a review is to take place shortly of existing common customs tariff (CCT) suspensions of duty which are due to expire on 31 December 1977 on certain products intended for use in the construction, maintenance and repair of aircraft.

These suspensions, which the UK will adopt in full with effect from 1 July 1977 (the end of the transitional period for industrial goods), are contained in council regulation (EEC) 2721/76 (see *Official Journal* no. L313, 15 November 1976). The present UK transitional rates of duty are set out in part 12 B I to IV of HM Customs and Excise tariff.

Unless any objections are raised, it is the intention that these suspensions should generally be maintained for a further year. However if the situation has changed so that any UK producer of goods similar to those on which CCT duties are presently suspended now believes that his interests would be adversely affected by the continuation of these duty suspensions during 1978, he should send details of his objections in writing, together with supporting evidence, to the Department of Trade, General Division, Room 332, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ, to arrive not later than 11 March 1977.

EEC tariff quotas 1977

An article in *Trade and Industry* of 21 January (pages 174-77) listed tariff quotas opened for 1977. It is now possible to give further details of two tariff quotas mentioned in that article.

High carbon ferro chrome A community duty-free tariff quota is opened with effect from 17 February 1977, for 52,000 tonnes, with an initial UK share of 14,530 tonnes and a community reserve of 3,540 tonnes, for ferro chrome containing not less than 4 per cent by weight of carbon under tariff heading 73.02 E.I.

The quota is provided for in an EEC council regulation no. 270 published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*, L39, 10 February 1977. Qualifying imports will be debited against the UK share of the tariff quota in the order in which any importer enters them for home use on or after 17 February 1977 and claims relief from duty.

Under the EEC regulation member states are authorised to give relief from duty within a limit of 20 per cent of their quota shares to imports of ferro chrome containing between 3 and 4 per cent by weight of carbon. As the UK quota share is not expected to be adequate to cover all imports of ferro chrome of 4 per cent carbon content up to the end of the year, and as ferro chrome users have not so far applied for quota relief for ferro chrome between 3 and 4 per cent carbon content, it is not intended to make use of this authorisation. Any user who considers that he requires to import ferro chrome with a carbon content of between 3 and 4 per cent from countries outside the EEC should inform General Division 2 of the Department of Trade, Room 333, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ, by 1 March. The information should include his requirements in tonnes for the remainder of 1977 and state expected country or countries of origin and how much, if any, such ferro chrome he expects to import from other member states of the community.

It is expected that there will be a review of the community's need for importing high carbon ferro chrome and of the quota level in the spring.

Greek wines As mentioned in the notice of 21 January, a tariff quota has been opened for imports into the UK, of certain wine products of tariff heading 22.05 originating in Greece. Council regulation (EEC) no. 124/77 (published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*, L21, 25 January 1977) provides for imports of these wine products to enter the UK at the import duty rates shown below, from 1 January 1977 until 28 April 1977, within the limits of a tariff quota of 2,000 hectolitres. Any excise duty is also payable.

Tariff heading	Rate of duty (per liquid gallon)
22.05 A.I.	£0.0400
A.II.	£0.2000
B.I.	£0.0400
B.II.	£0.2000
C.I.a)	£0.1000
C.I.b)1.	£0.0500
C.I.b)2.	£0.1000
C.II.a)	£0.1000
C.II.b)1.	£0.0500
C.II.b)2.	£0.1000
C.III.a)2.	£0.2500
C.III.b)3.aa)	£0.2000
C.III.b)3.bb)	£0.2500
C.IV.a)2.	£0.2500
C.IV.b)3.aa)	£0.2000
C.IV.b)3.bb)	£0.2500
C.V.a)	£0.2500
C.V.b)1.	£0.2000
C.V.b)2.	£0.2500

HM Customs and Excise has provisionally accepted claims on this quota (serial no. 1197) on deposit of duty at the full rate from 1 January 1977. The differences between full and quota rates of duty are in course of repayment to those concerned and should be received shortly. Current valid claims will henceforth be processed in the normal way. Qualifying imports will be debited against the tariff quota in the order in which any importer enters them for home use and claims relief from duty.

Inquiries about this notice should be made to General Division 2, Department of Trade, Room 333, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ. Inquiries about how much a quota has been used should be made to the Tariff Quota Registration Unit, HM Customs and Excise, Kings Beam House, Mark Lane, London EC3R 7HE, tel. 01-626 1515 ext. 2570.

Copies of the *Official Journal of the European Communities* may be obtained from HMSO, PO Box 569, London SE1, tel. 01-928 6977 ext. 365.

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor should be addressed to the Editor, *Trade and Industry*, Room 437, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, and *not* to HMSO.

Commission reports on Stabex

A report[1] on the operation during 1975 of the system set up by the Lomé convention for stabilising export earnings (Stabex) has been sent by the commission to the council.

Since it is the first time this totally new system has been applied and the transfers have only just been made, nothing is said in the report about the effect of the system on the economic development of the African, Caribbean and Pacific recipient countries, nor about its effect on the development of foreign trade; although an assessment of the volume of the transfers in relation to export earnings is made.

The report examines the machinery for co-operation with the ACP states and how it operates; the first period of application of the texts and the results; and the prospects and limitations of the system.

In addition to looking back on the operation of the system, the report also looks forward. The commission hopes that the report will form the basis of a debate which will enable it to clarify and pave the way for the action it will take in the future as manager of the system.

[1] Com(76) 656 final.

Closing date for 'Repertoire Industriel'

The EEC's directory of level trade associations (*Repertoire Industriel*), is now being revised and the closing date for insertion by eligible associations is imminent.

The directory, which was last revised before the UK's membership of the EEC, aims to list the representative bodies in each of the member states who serve on the European-level associations.

Associations, who wish to appear in the directory – and there is no charge for insertion – should send the full title of their organisation with address, telephone and telex number to Miss Irene Schorr, Commission of the European Communities, Documentation DG 3, Loi 4/37, 200 rue de la Loi, B-1049 Brussels, Belgium. It is recommended that the name of the EEC level trade association should also be given.

Canadian industrialists visit Europe

Representatives of the Canadian non-ferrous metals industry accompanied by an officer from the Canadian Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce will be visiting Europe from 14 to 25 March.

After initial meetings in Brussels, mission members will be visiting individual EEC countries and will be in the UK from 21 to 22 March.

Economic indicators of the EEC

These tables have been prepared for the convenience of users who do not have access to the sources themselves; international publications (as indicated) have been used, supplemented by later reports where possible. In addition to the member states of the EEC, the United States and Japan have been included for comparison.

The form of presentation adopted – indicators by subject – is for convenience only, and it must not be assumed that the indicators in the same table for different countries are strictly comparable. An attempt has been made to indicate major differences of definition, but the coverage and methods of collection vary considerably; this is partly due to different administrative procedures in various countries. Fuller details may be obtained from the sources indicated, and from the national publications of the countries concerned.

From 6 August 1976, actual unemployment figures rather than indices have been published. Unemployment rates reflect national practices of defining the rate rather than those based on the size of the labour force in 1970 which had been used previously. These changes are in concert with the comparison of international unemployment now published regularly in the *Department of Employment Gazette* where seasonally unadjusted figures are also to be seen.

TABLE 1 Industrial production (excluding construction) seasonally adjusted

Indices 1970 = 100

	Belgium	Luxembourg	France[1]	German F.R.	Ireland[2]	Italy	Netherlands	United Kingdom[5]	EEC[3]	*United States*[4]	*Japan*
Weights in EEC	3.9	0.3	18.1	39.9	0.6	13.3	4.5	19.4	100.0	—	—
Weights in total	1.3	0.1	6.0	13.2	0.2	4.4	1.5	6.4	33.1	*43.3*	*11.9*
1971	103	99	104	102	105	100	106	100	102	*102*	*103*
1972	109	103	112	106	109	104	111	102	106	*111*	*110*
1973	116	115	120	113	119	114	119	111	115	*120*	*127*
1974	120	119	123	112	123	119	123	108	116	*120*	*124*
1975	108	93	112	105	115	109	117	103	107	*109*	*110*
1975 1st quarter	112	103	114	106	115	110	117	107	109	*105*	*106*
2nd quarter	107	92	111	104	115	107	114	101	105	*106*	*110*
3rd quarter	105	82	110	103	115	106	111	100	105	*112*	*112*
4th quarter	108	95	114	108	116	111	119	102	109	*114*	*113*
1976 1st quarter	115	98	121	112	125	117	120	103	113	*118*	*119*
2nd quarter	121	104	122	113	125	120	122	104	114	*120*	*126*
3rd quarter	117	95	126	112	126 (e)	122	125	104	114	*122*	*127*
1975 June	111	96	112	103		109	114	100	106	*104*	*111*
July	101	90	110	99		110	109	101	103	*105*	*114*
August	100	61	110	104		98	111	99	103	*107*	*112*
September	108	96	111	106		110	114	101	106	*109*	*114*
October	107	89	113	107		111	116	102	108	*113*	*114*
November	110	98	113	109		113	122	102	109	*115*	*112*
December	109	98	117	109		108	120	101	109	*115*	*114*
1976 January	111	97	120	110		112	120	103	111	*117*	*117*
February	115	98	120	114		119	120	104	114	*118*	*119*
March	119	99	122	111		119	121	104	113	*119*	*123*
April	122	99	122	112		119	121	104	114	*119*	*127*
May	120	107	122	111		123	121	107	114	*120*	*124*
June	121	105	123	115		119	124	102	115	*121*	*126*
July	107	92	124	108		122	122	104	113	*121*	*129*
August	121	83	124	114		119	123	103	115	*122*	*127*
September	122	111	128	114		126	129	105	117	*122*	*126*
October	116	103	123	117		122	127	105	117	*121*	*126*
November			126 (e)	112		127 (e)	124 (e)	105		*122*	*129* (e)
December										*123* (e)	
% change latest three months:											
On previous three months	2.9	−2.3	1.9	1.8	1.8	4.2	3.0	2.0	2.1	*0.3*	*−0.3*
On a year earlier	14.0	20.7	12.2	6.5	9.6	12.3	8.0	3.3	10.0	*6.7*	*12.1*

[1] Excluding clothing, wood products and furniture. [2] Mining and manufacturing only. [3] Excluding Denmark. (e) Estimated.
[4] From 1976, data are not comparable with those for earlier periods. [5] UK per cent changes are calculated with a non-rounded series
Source: 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'

Time Rates of Wages and Hours of Work

A volume of tables giving particulars of the minimum, or standard, time rates of wages for the more important industries and occupations, and of the normal weekly hours for which these rates are payable. The details given relate to the position as at April 1, 1976, but any later changes known to have come into operation are shown.

£4.40 (*by post* £4.69).

Government publications can be bought from the Government Bookshops in London (post orders to PO Box 569, SE1 9NH). Edinburgh, Cardiff, Belfast, Manchester, Birmingham and Bristol, or through booksellers

HMSO BOOKS

TABLE 2 Unemployment seasonally adjusted

Numbers thousands

	Belgium[2]	Denmark[4]	France[1]	German F.R.[1]	Ireland[2]	Italy[3]	Netherlands[1]	United Kingdom[1]	*United States*[3]	*Japan*[3]
1971	71	30	337	185	42	613	62	776	*4,993*	*639*
1972	87	30	380	246	48	696	108	885	*4,840*	*730*
1973	92	20	394	274	44	669	110	611	*4,304*	*670*
1974	105	45	498	583	48	560	135	600[5]	*5,076*	*740*
1975	177	103	840	1,074	75	654	195	929	*7,830*	*1,000*
1975 3rd quarter	190	99	915	1,110	78	653	207	1,000	*7,802*	*1,025*
4th quarter	209	111	916	1,141	80	698	211	1,132	*7,824*	*1,124*
1976 1st quarter	210	111	907	1,163	82	625	208	1,223	*7,151*	*1,067*
2nd quarter	229	98	950	1,027	84	755	206	1,246	*7,014*	*1,100*
3rd quarter	240	102	951	1,015	85	780	222 (e)	1,308	*7,439*	*1,102*
4th quarter				1,070 (e)		775				
1975 July	183	85	885	1,113	78		202	968	*8,096*	*966*
August	191	104	864	1,121	77		207	997	*7,924*	*1,029*
September	199	107	933	1,097	79		210	1,034	*7,970*	*1,056*
October	211	109	928	1,132	80		211	1,089	*8,092*	*1,139*
November	211	107	913	1,137	80		211	1,133	*7,939*	*1,126*
December	208	117	906	1,153	81		211	1,175	*7,735*	*1,105*
1976 January	206	114	900	1,188	82		208	1,211	*7,290*	*1,092*
February	208	113	901	1,194	83		212	1,232	*7,136*	*1,066*
March	216	106	921	1 107	82		205	1,227	*7,027*	*1,043*
April	221	102	931	1,073	84		203	1,234	*7,040*	*1 080*
May	228	97	953	1,003	85		205	1,250	*6,860*	*1,108*
June	238	94	967	1,004	83		211	1,257	*7,143*	*1,112*
July	238	103	950	1,023	85		218	1,294	*7,426*	*1,117*
August	244	99	962	1,031	86		227	1,309	*7,506*	*1,120*
September	237	103	941	992	84		221	1,319	*7,384*	*1,068*
October	230	115	935	1,016	84 (e)		215	1,305	*7,569*	*1,093*
November	244	110	931	1,008			206	n.a.	*7,769*	*1,103* (e)
December	240 (e)		930 (e)	1,100 (e)				1,330	*7,558* (e)	
1977 January								1,345		
Rate % in latest month	9.0 (e)	10.5 (e)	5.2	4.8 (e)	11.8	3.9	5.0 (e)	5.7	*7.9* (e)	*2.0* (e)
% change latest three months										
On previous three months	−0.7	10.8	−2.0	2.6	0.4	−0.6	−2.1	+1.5	2.6	−2.5
On a year earlier	13.3	1.6	1.8	−8.7	7.6	11.0	1.6	+13.5	−3.7	−1.7

Unemployment data are defined and collected on different bases in different countries. The following notes indicate the main variations which prevent direct international comparison.

1 Registered unemployed (excluding school leavers); rate per cent of total employees
2 Insured unemployed; rate per cent of total insured population.
3 Labour force sample survey; rate per cent of total labour force.
4 Unemployment-insurance beneficiaries; rate per cent of total numbers insured.
5 Estimated in the absence of figures for December 1974.
6 Averaged over component months. Rates per cent relate to the last period for which unemployment figures are given.
7 Some seasonally adjusted data have been estimated from unadjusted material.
8 UK per cent changes are calculated with a non-rounded series.

Source: OECD Main Economic Indicators and *Department of Employment Gazette*

TABLE 3 Exports (fob) Special trade[1], seasonally adjusted

US$ million*

	Belgium/ Luxembourg	Denmark[2]	France	German F.R.	Ireland[2]	Italy	Netherlands	United Kingdom[2]	EEC	*United States*[2]	*Japan*[2]
1970	11,592	3,288	17,940	34,188	1,032	13,188	11,772	19,356	112,356	*43,224*	*19,320*
1971	12,081	3,609	20,592	39,009	1,308	15,177	13,953	22,356	128,084	*44,211*	*23,994*
1972	15,995	4,330	25,739	46 208	1,610	18,535	15,392	24,340	153,152	*49,676*	*28,591*
1973	22,416	6,120	35,952	67,440	2,124	22,236	23,952	28,862	210,684	*71,316*	*36,936*
1974	28,260	7,716	45,900	89,160	2,628	30,288	32,436	37,188	275,100	*98,508*	*55,536*
1975	28,812	8,712	52,212	90,024	3,216	34,824	34,440	41,689	295,992	*107,652*	*55,752*
1976								44,128			
1975 3rd quarter	6,408	2,055	12,441	21,060	795	8,697	7,869	9,859	69,813	*27,135*	*13,176*
4th quarter	7,227	2,241	12 876	22,356	852	9,015	9,138	10,470	74,865	*28,206*	*14,097*
1976 1st quarter	7,632	2,148	13,539	23,583	723	8,466	9,075	10,891	76,716	*26,619*	*15,882*
2nd quarter	7,767	2,241	13,956	24,549	813	8,820	8,691	10,879	78,303	*28,692*	*16,587*
3rd quarter	7,959	2,316	13,707	25,578	828	9,366	9,591	10,865	80,802	*29,598*	*16,746*
4th quarter								11,259			
1975 July	2,053	707	4,186	7,224	266	2,799	2,655	3,418	23,532	*8,868*	*4,423*
August	2,240	671	4,142	6,704	263	3,031	2,499	3,149	22,902	*9,119*	*4,420*
September	2,116	678	4,114	7,132	265	2,848	2,708	3,298	23,378	*9,147*	*4,333*
October	2,271	806	4,148	7,200	316	2,918	3,008	3,555	24,489	*9,303*	*4,764*
November	2,632	724	4,315	7,764	290	3,182	3,095	3,356	25,591	*9,527*	*4,467*
December	2,324	711	4,414	7,392	246	2,916	3,037	3,562	24,785	*9,376*	*4,849*
1976 January	2,488	768	4,425	7,747	247	3,062	2,903	3,600	25,456	*8,840*	*5,037*
February	2,648	683	4,637	7,692	247	2,591	3,017	3,552	25,328	*8,858*	*5,223*
March	2,495	698	4,478	8,145	228	2,813	3,155	3,686	25,931	*8,920*	*5,610*
April	2,550	723	4,568	7,981	290	2,775	2,899	3,552	25,551	*9,114*	*5,299*
May	2,622	780	4,899	8,459	274	3,319	3,009	3,636	27,230	*9,889*	*5,648*
June	2,594	738	4,488	8,100	249	2,725	2,785	3,634	25,511	*9,689*	*5,640*
July	2,293	740	4,321	7,842	270	3,120	3,100	3,499	25,369	*9,852*	*5,483*
August	2,724	791	4,687	8,368	257	3,092	3,198	3,654	26,965	*9,811*	*5,461*
September	2,943	784	4,698	9,367	301	3,155	3,294	3,706	28,468	*9,934*	*5,801*
October	2,880 (e)	755	4,622	9,426 (e)	326	3,416		3,657		*9,820*	*5,982* (e)
November	2,800 (e)			9,153 (e)				3,641			*5,520* (e)
December								3,963			
% change in dollar terms latest three months:											
On previous three months	13.3	3.2	2.2	15.0	11.5	5.5	10.3	3.7	3.2	0.5	4.3
On a year earlier	22.9	8.1	12.9	26.4	4.7	9.8	22.0	7.5	15.7	7.2	27.6
% change in national currencies latest three months:											
On previous three months	9.7	1.1	6.3	11.1	4.2	5.3	5.5	−3.1	5.0	0.5	1.5
On a year earlier	21.1	7.5	26.5	21.0	−15.9	37.6	19.7	−13.7	13.0	7.2	23.3

[1] For most purposes special trade may be defined as trade excluding re-exports. [2] General trade. [3] Weighted average of percentage changes in national currencies.
* All values are expressed in US dollars, making use of IMF parity rates as quoted in 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'.
(e) estimated.

Source: United Kingdom: Department of Trade
All others: 'OECD Series "A".'

TABLE 4 **Imports (cif)** Special trade[1], seasonally adjusted

US$ million*

	Belgium/ Luxem-bourg	Den-mark[2]	France	German F.R.	Ireland[2]	Italy	Nether-lands	United Kingdom[2]	EEC	*United States*[2, 3]	*Japan*[2]
1970	11,352	4,380	19,116	29,808	1,572	14,940	13,392	21,720	116,280	*39,960*	*18,876*
1971	12,390	4,476	21,261	34,356	1,838	16,026	15,159	23,897	129,403	*45,633*	*19,716*
1972	14,879	4,986	26,696	39,759	2,113	19,252	17,127	27,831	152,643	*55,819*	*23,463*
1973	21,936	7,704	37,380	54,492	2,784	27,816	24,360	38,872	215,232	*69,120*	*38,316*
1974	29,700	9,852	52,824	68,976	3,816	40,968	33,204	54,345	293,568	*100,968*	*62,112*
1975	30,708	10,332	54,240	74,208	3,804	38,364	35,148	53,686	300,048	*96,936*	*57,864*
1976								56,352			
1975 1st quarter	7,479	2,445	14,016	18,618	987	9,273	9,297	14,057	76,158	*25,002*	*14,895*
2nd quarter	7,359	2,415	13,131	18,678	924	9,039	8,760	13,094	73,395	*22,275*	*13,521*
3rd quarter	6,891	2,439	12,777	17,865	894	9,399	8,091	13,177	71,532	*24,303*	*14,451*
4th quarter	7,626	2,844	14,328	19,188	1,011	10,602	9,084	13,198	77,877	*25,515*	*15,129*
1976 1st quarter	7,752	2,856	15,138	20,043	1,032	9,798	8,901	13,209	78,771	*27,471*	*15,061*
2nd quarter	8,055	2,964	15,351	20,808	975	10,614	9,474	13,982	82,269	*28,725*	*14,994*
3rd quarter	8,211	3,117	16,176	22,281	1,044	10,617	9,846	14,291	85,674	*32,445*	*17,139*
4th quarter								14,484			
1975 July	2,267	803	4,294	5,847	302	3,142	2,676	4,520	23,848	*7,805*	*4,823*
August	2,185	805	4,173	5,843	286	2,814	2,544	4,447	23,097	*8,130*	*4,593*
September	2,440	830	4,309	6,174	305	3,443	2,870	4,212	24,587	*8,370*	*5,034*
October	2,456	874	4,644	6,320	308	3,288	2,766	4,397	25,049	*8,406*	*5,089*
November	2,605	978	4,897	6,307	357	3,637	3,203	4,367	26,349	*8,555*	*4,793*
December	2,565	991	4,786	6,562	345	3,676	3,116	4,439	26,478	*8,555*	*5,221*
1976 January	2,671	888	5,043	6,534	332	3,177	2,959	4,418	26,022	*9,425*	*5,126*
February	2,523	972	5,125	6,699	356	3,193	2,902	4,556	26,340	*8,820*	*5,037*
March	2,559	996	4,971	6,811	353	3,429	3,041	4,237	26,408	*9,226*	*4,884*
April	2,661	993	5,020	7,146	321	3,641	3,282	4,616	27,665	*9,651*	*4,975*
May	2,822	981	5,479	6,983	338	3,692	3,176	4,659	28,157	*9,192*	*4,899*
June	2,572	989	4,852	6,680	326	3,280	3,014	4,700	26,449	*9,883*	*5,120*
July	2,534	906	4,904	6,920	332	3,372	3,128	4,824	26,951	*10,936*	*5,537*
August	2,751	1,081	5,562	7,711	344	3,538	3,358	4,595	28,975	*10,682*	*5,594*
September	2,926	1,129	5,709	7,650	368	3,707	3,360	4,865	29,747	*10,828*	*6,008*
October	3,120 (e)	1,071	5,837	7,944 (e)	349	3,838		4,702		*10,783*	*5,750* (e)
November				7,901 (e)				4,963			*5,400* (e)
December								4,816			
% change in dollar terms latest three months:											
On previous three months	11.0	14.1	12.3	10.2	6.5	7.1	4.0	1.4	4.1	7.6	5.6
On a year earlier	24.2	30.8	30.3	25.0	18.0	16.1	21.7	9.7	19.8	29.7	15.0
% change in national currencies latest three months:											
On previous three months	7.5	11.7	16.8	6.4	−0.5	6.8	− 0.5	−5.2	5.4	7.6	2.8
On a year earlier	22.4	30.1	46.0	19.7	−5.2	45.5	19.4	−11.8	20.8	29.7	11.1

[1] For most purposes special trade may be defined as trade excluding re-exports. [2] General trade. [3] fob. [4] Weighted average of percentage changes in national currencies.
* All values are expressed in US dollars with the use of IMF parity rates as quoted in 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'.
(e) estimated.
Source: United Kingdom: Department of Trade. All others: 'OECD Series "A" '.

TABLE 5 **Balance of payments on current account**

US$ million (unadjusted)

	Belgium/ Luxem-bourg	Den-mark	France	German F.R.	Ireland	Italy	Nether-lands	United Kingdom	EEC	*United States*	*Japan*
1970	724	−544	297	870	−189	902	−522	1,760	3,157	*2,156*	*1,970*
1971	851	−423	530	884	−190	2,041	−155	2,630	5,616	*−1,323*	*5,821*
1972	1,113	−66	297	775	−134	2,266	1,290	386	6,193	*−5,550*	*6,624*
1973	1,140	−472	−691	4,301	−219	−2,510	2,310	−1,806	2,095	*7,156*	*−133*
1974	911	−982	−5,941	9,589	−708	−7,817	2,028	−7,829	−10,647	*2,330*	*−4,650*
1975	1,044	−508	−2	3,889	−80 (e)	−528	1,569	−3,717	−150	*17,986*	*−682*
1976								−2,756			
1973 1st quarter	366	−151	−225	560		−669	457	−740		*939*	*497*
2nd quarter	232	−179	280	1,035		−736	682	+51		*906*	*−416*
3rd quarter	217	69	−542	825		−14	35	−409		*965*	*101*
4th quarter	326	−211	−206	1,921		−1,060	1,136	−678		*4,346*	*−315*
1974 1st quarter	339	−519	−1,604	2,787		−2,503	479	−2,117		*2,356*	*−3,274*
2nd quarter	−121	−311	−1,861	2,228		−2,433	522	−1,942		*−70*	*−2,377*
3rd quarter	323	−141	−1,927	863		−1,413	554	−1,911		*−2,381*	*−133*
4th quarter	370	−16	−548	3,881		−1,467	473	−1,859		*2,425*	*1,133*
1975 1st quarter	622	−88	−369	2,220		−459	146	−1,612		*4,534*	*−925*
2nd quarter	141	45	941	768		142	596	−783		*5,486*	*−300*
3rd quarter	31	−72	−128	−432		859	194	−1,160		*1,795*	*−23*
4th quarter	251	−393	−446	1,368		−1,070	633	−239		*6,172*	*566*
1976 1st quarter	−408		−1,396	1,324		−1,413	822	−448		*2,829*	*−97*
2nd quarter	−30		+700 (e)	607		−1,338	284	−788		*2,094*	*828*
3rd quarter								−1,003			*1,090* (e)
4th quarter								−585			

Source: *UK Economic Trends*. All others: IMF International Financial Statistics.

Government Publications in the West

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TABLE 6 Export unit values of manufactures

Indices 1970 = 100

	Belgium/ Luxembourg		France		German F.R.		Italy		Netherlands		United Kingdom		*United States*	*Japan*	
	US$	Bfrs.	US$	frs.	US$	D.M.	US$	lire	US$	Gdrs.	US$	£	US$	US$	Yen
1970	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	*100*	*100*	*100*
1971	101	98	105	105	108	102	106	105	104	101	106	105	*102*	*104*	*101*
1972	112	99	115	105	117	102	114	106	117	104	116	111	*104*	*116*	*99*
1973	137	107	143	114	147	107	126	118	139	107	127	124	*113*	*141*	*107*
1974	171	133	162	140	172	122	154	160	178	132	153	155	*137*	*181*	*147*
1975	185	136	197	152	195	131	181	189	195	136	178	192	*159*	*178*	*147*
1973 1st quarter	122	102	126	110	124	103	119	110	124	105	119	118	*107*	*125*	*100*
2nd quarter	134	105	141	112	141	105	121	115	135	107	129	122	*111*	*136*	*100*
3rd quarter	148	108	153	115	162	106	131	120	148	124	131	127	*114*	*147*	*108*
4th quarter	147	113	152	121	157	109	133	125	152	112	132	133	*120*	*154*	*118*
1974 1st quarter	150	123	141	125	154	114	133	137	154	121	134	141	*127*	*165*	*134*
2nd quarter	173	132	158	139	175	120	148	151	179	130	153	153	*132*	*183*	*142*
3rd quarter	177	137	170	147	175	125	163	171	186	137	159	162	*142*	*185*	*152*
4th quarter	183	138	181	151	183	126	171	181	192	138	165	170	*148*	*190*	*159*
1975 1st quarter	199	139	196	152	203	130	184	188	209	139	178	179	*156*	*192*	*157*
2nd quarter	192	134	208	153	203	130	183	184	205	136	182	188	*159*	*188*	*152*
3rd quarter	176	134	193	151	189	132	179	190	185	134	175	197	*159*	*179*	*148*
4th quarter	172	135	193	154	185	131	177	193	182	134	174	205	*162*	*169*	*143*
1976 1st quarter	177	139			187	132	161	197	186	137	178	214	*166*	*167*	*140*
2nd quarter					190	134					172	229	*168*	*172*	*143*
3rd quarter					196	136					177	242			
% change latest 3 months:															
On previous 3 months	2.9	3.0	Nil	2.0	3.2	1.5	−9.0	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.9	5.7	*1.2*	*3.0*	*3.1*
On a year earlier	−11.1	Nil	6.6	2.0	3.7	3.0	−12.5	4.8	−11.0	−1.4	1.1	22.8	*5.7*	*−8.5*	*−5.9*

(e) estimated.

Source: Dollar value: 'United Nations Monthly Bulletin'. National currency: Dollar values converted at OECD exchange rates as quoted in 'Series A' : UK Department of Trade

TABLE 7 Consumer prices All goods and services

Indices 1970 = 100

	Belgium[1]	Luxembourg[1]	Denmark	France	German F.R.	Ireland	Italy	Netherlands	United Kingdom	*United States*	*Japan*
1970	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	*100*	*100*
1971	104.3	104.7	106	105.3	105.3	108.9	104.8	107.5	109.4	*104.3*	*106.1*
1972	110.0	110.1	113	111.7	111.1	118.4	110.8	115.9	117.2	*107.7*	*110.9*
1973	117.7	116.8	123	119.9	118.8	131.8	122.4	125.2	127.9	*114.4*	*123.9*
1974	132.6	128.0	142	136.3	127.1	154.2	146.3	137.2	148.4	*127*	*154.2*
1975	149.5	141.7	156	152.2	134.7	186.4	171.1	151.2	184.4	*138.6*	*172.4*
1975 1st quarter	143.9	136.3	152	147.0	132.0	177.7	164.9	145.8	166.9	*135.0*	*166.4*
2nd quarter	147.7	140.1	156	150.6	134.5	188.5	169.3	149.9	182.7	*137.1*	*172.1*
3rd quarter	151.1	143.1	158	153.9	135.5	187.1	172.6	152.9	190.8	*140.1*	*173.6*
4th quarter	155.4	147.3	156	157.3	136.7	192.2	177.6	156.3	197.3	*142.3*	*177.7*
1976 1st quarter	158.7	151.1	162	161.0	139.1	206.3	186.0	159.0	204.4	*143.7*	*181.3*
2nd quarter	161.8	154.5	168	164.8	141.1	219.1	196.7	164.3	211.9	*145.5*	*187.6*
3rd quarter	164.9	157.0	171	168.6	141.1	222.4	202.0	165.4	216.8	*147.8*	*189.8*
4th quarter	167.4 (e)	159.7 (e)			141.9 (e)	231.8 (e)	215.1 (e)	169.6 (e)			
1975 June	148.5	141.1	157	151.7	135.4		170.8	150.4	187.6	*138.1*	*172.4*
July	149.5	142.3	158	152.8	135.4		171.4	151.3	189.5	*139.6*	*172.8*
August	151.0	142.9	158	153.8	135.2	187.1	172.5	152.7	190.6	*140.0*	*172.4*
September	152.3	144.0	159	155.1	135.9		173.9	154.6	192.2	*140.7*	*175.6*
October	154.1	146.2	155	156.3	136.3		175.8	156.0	194.9	*141.5*	*178.5*
November	155.7	147.4	158	157.3	136.7	192.2	177.8	156.4	197.3	*142.4*	*177.3*
December	156.5	148.3	158	158.2	137.1		179.2	156.7	199.7	*143.0*	*177.2*
1976 January	158.0	150.5	159	159.9	138.2		181.1	157.5	202.3	*143.3*	*180.4*
February	158.5	151.3	160	161.0	139.2	206.3	185.1	159.0	204.9	*143.7*	*181.6*
March	159.5	151.6	167	162.4	139.7		188.8	160.5	205.9	*144.0*	*182.3*
April	161.0	153.8	167	163.8	140.6		193.8	163.9	210.0	*144.6*	*187.2*
May	162.2	154.7	169	164.9	141.2	219.1	197.7	164.5	212.3	*145.5*	*187.6*
June	162.4	154.9	169	165.6	141.5		198.6	164.5	213.4	*146.3*	*188.1*
July	163.7	156.1	169	167.2	140.9		199.6	163.7	213.8	*147.1*	*189.2*
August	164.4	157.3	170	168.4	141.4	222.4	201.8	165.4	216.8	*147.8*	*187.6*
September	166.5	157.5	174	170.2	141.4		205.2	167.2	219.7	*148.4*	*192.6*
October	166.8	158.8	176	171.8	141.5		211.2	169.5	223.7	*149.0*	*193.8*
November	167.5	159.7	178 p	173.2	141.8 (e)	231.8 (e)	215.7	169.7	226.9	*149.4*	*193.8*
December	168.4 (e)	160.6 (e)			142.4 (e)		218.4 (e)	169.6 (e)	229.8		
% change latest 3 months:											
On previous 3 months	1.6	1.7	3.9	2.8	0.5	4.2	6.4	2.5	4.6	*1.3*	*2.7*
On a year earlier	7.8	8.4	11.9	9.9	3.8	20.6	21.1	8.5	15.0	*5.2*	*9.2*

[1] Excluding rent.

(e) estimated.

Source: 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'.

Government Publications in Scotland

from

Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 13a Castle Street, Edinburgh EH2 3AR

TABLE 8 Value of retail sales Current prices, seasonally adjusted

Indices 1970 = 100

	Belgium/ Luxem-bourg	Denmark	France[2]	German F.R.[3]	Ireland[4]	Italy[6,7]	Nether-lands	Great Britain[5]	*United States*	*Japan*
1971	108	108	104	111	111	111	108	109	*109*	*110*
1972	120	119	110	121	126	125	122	122	*119*	*118*
1973	138	134	117	130	148	152	137	139	*134*	*145*
1974	162	147	134	137	168	189	151	160	*143*	*165*
1975	183	167	147	149	199	206	169	191	*155*	*192*
1975 1st quarter	175	161	141	146	183	181	164	181	*148*	*186*
2nd quarter	178	164	145	147	192	194	167	190	*153*	*192*
3rd quarter	184	166	147	151	200	192	170	194	*159*	*192*
4th quarter	192	180	154	154	216	264	176	199	*162*	*195*
1976 1st quarter	197	187	150	157	225	209	179	208	*169*	*200*
2nd quarter	202	187	153	157	234	239	186	212	*171*	*202*
3rd quarter	209	194	157	160	236		194	223	*173*	*202*
1975 March	178	160	144	147	183	208	166	181	*147*	*191*
April	178	163	145	148	188	188	165	201	*150*	*191*
May	174	162	144	145	198	203	164	182	*154*	*192*
June	180	167	144	150	189	193	166	187	*155*	*193*
July	179	169	145	149	193	198	168	192	*159*	*193*
August	184	166	147	150	198	166	168	192	*160*	*194*
September	189	163	150	152	208	211	175	196	*158*	*190*
October	191	180	153	154	212	254	175	194	*160*	*197*
November	191	180	154	156	214	213	174	198	*161*	*194*
December	194	177	156	152	226	324	178	204	*165*	*195*
1976 January	196	181	150	155	222	201	176	211	*165*	*197*
February	197	208	148	159	236	197	178	207	*168*	*206*
March	197	172	151	158	218	228	183	206	*170*	*198*
April	200	188	150	156	231	242	185	214	*172*	*200*
May	202	179	156	157	233	235	183	210	*169*	*203*
June	203	194	154	158	238	239	190	212	*173*	*201*
July	205	193	150	157	222	226	183	219	*172*	*200*
August	211	193	160	160	228	211	194	223	*175*	*205*
September	211	195	169	163	259		205	226	*172*	*199*
October		193	156					226	*175*	*207*
November			166					233	*178*	
% change latest 3 months:										
On previous 3 months	3.6	2.7	4.1	1.9	1.0	−4.1	4.3	4.9	*1.0*	*1.2*
On a year earlier	13.6	14.2	5.7	6.4	18.4	21.4	13.9	16.4	*9.6*	*5.2*

[1] Department and chainstores.
[2] Including chainstores.
[3] Including indirect taxes.
[4] Not seasonally adjusted.
[5] Average weekly sales.
[6] Calculated with non-rounded series.
[7] Excluding motor vehicles.

Source: 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'

TABLE 9 Earnings/wages per head in manufacturing

Indices 1970 = 100

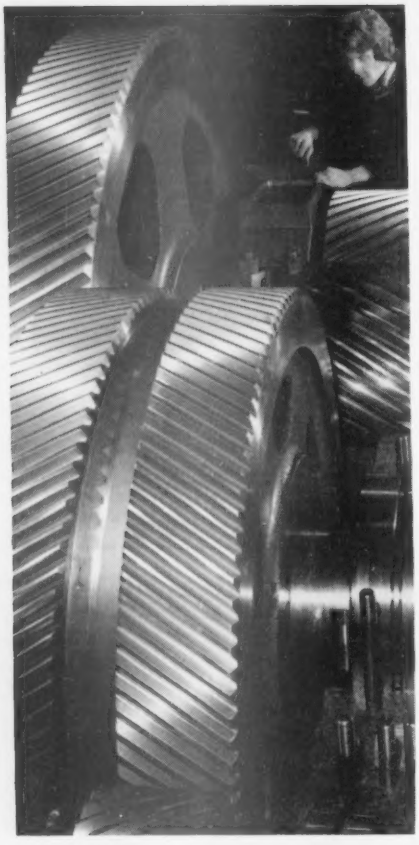
	Belgium/ Luxem-bourg	Den-mark[1,2]	France	German F.R.[4] †	Ireland[2]	Italy[7]	Nether-lands[3]	Great Britain	*United States*[4]	*Japan*[5] †
1971	111	115	110	111	116	112	112	111	*106*	*114*
1972	126	129	121	123	133	124	126	126	*113*	*132*
1973	147	153	138	135	159	154	143	143	*121*	*163*
1974	178	185	162	151	191	189	169	166	*131*	*205*
1975	210	223	185	165	246	239	192	209	*143*	*229*
1973 1st quarter	140	137	129	131	145	137	137	134	*118*	*148*
2nd quarter	144	151	133	134	157	151	140	139	*120*	*155*
3rd quarter	149	160	138	137	164	161	146	144	*122*	*162*
4th quarter	154	168	144	140	168	168	148	150	*124*	*174*
1974 1st quarter	162	173	147	144	172	176	159	147	*126*	*178*
2nd quarter	173	185	155	151	188	184	167	159	*129*	*203*
3rd quarter	184	190	164	156	196	194	173	172	*133*	*211*
4th quarter	192	202	169	159	207	202	174	185	*137*	*215*
1975 1st quarter	201	211	173	159	222	225	184	194	*139*	*224*
2nd quarter	207	223	177	161	241	238	188	202	*141*	*220*
3rd quarter	213	226	187	165	255	245	196	215	*144*	*235*
4th quarter	221	235	190	170	265	249	197	226	*147*	*235*
1976 1st quarter	227	239	195	170	272	256	206	233	*150*	*255*
2nd quarter	232	249	204	174		277	206	242	*152*	*252*
3rd quarter	237	252	213	176		307	209		*156*	*260*
4th quarter									*158* (e)	
% change latest 3 months:										
On previous 3 months	2.2	1.2	4.4	1.2	2.6	10.8	1.5	3.9	*1.3*	*3.2*
On a year earlier	11.3	11.5	13.9	6.7	22.5	25.3	6.6	19.8	*7.5*	*10.6*

† Seasonally adjusted.
[1] Including mining.
[2] Earnings.
[3] Hourly rates industry: males.
[4] Gross hourly earnings per productive worker.
[5] Monthly earnings in manufacturing: regular workers.
[6] Wages and salaries per employed person in industry, excluding construction, public gas and electricity undertakings.
[7] Hourly-rates times average daily hours worked.

Source: All countries 'OECD Main Economic Indicators', except German Federal Republic ('Monatsberichte der Deutschen Bundesbank', Reine 4), Italy ('I.L.O. Yearbook' and 'M.E.I.') and Great Britain ('Department of Employment Gazette' and M.E.I.).

MARKET REPORT

In gear for trade with Czechoslovakia?



British trade links with Czechoslovakia are already fairly well established. But there is no room for complacency. The latest five-year plan points to an increased demand for foreign goods and this article from the British embassy in Prague describes the opportunities for British exporters.

Although the Czechoslovak economy is one of the more sluggish in eastern Europe, it is important to realise that it is also one of the most developed.

Czechoslovakia's industrial revolution came relatively early and by the end of the nineteenth century there was a considerable concentration of industry in Bohemia and Moravia where coal-mining, steel-making and engineering were prominent. On this solid base has been built a varied and developed economy where industry accounts for over 60 per cent of national income and which has produced one of the highest standards of living in eastern Europe.

The fact that this has been achieved on a narrow raw material base – coal is the only considerable indigenous raw material – and with a small population – currently less than 15 million – is a tribute to the inventiveness and technical skills of this small nation.

The traditional advantages associated with such a highly-developed economy have, however, been somewhat reduced by other factors recently. The movement of raw material prices, including fuel, has been entirely to Czechoslovakia's disadvantage. Her long-established industries have been at a disadvantage in competing with newer industries set up with the latest technology in other countries. The result has been the appearance of an uncharacteristic balance of payments deficit with hard-currency areas during the last three years.

Although this situation does not satisfy the Czechoslovak planners, it is right to point out that Czechoslovakia's hard-currency debt is the lowest of the member countries of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) and that, as a percentage of her trade with the developed west, this debt is very low indeed.

Czechoslovakia has not hitherto been a major borrower on the international money market and has only very recently raised any Euro-dollar loans – and their total value is at present only $260 million. Czechoslovakia is therefore better equipped than many countries to cope with the temporary difficulties primarily associated with the recession in the major non-socialist industrial countries.

In normal circumstances Czechoslovakia conducts about two-thirds of her trade with fellow members of the CMEA and only about 23 per cent with the developed west. There may be some disturbance to these proportions in exceptional years – for example when in 1976 there was a need to import grain from hard-currency sources – but the basic pattern of trade is likely to remain.

Trade with the developed west amounts to approximately $3.5 billion per annum of which imports account for about $2 billion. Within this total there is considerable scope for the further expansion of UK/Czechoslovak trade, which, although important for both partners, has remained at a relatively modest level considering the nature of the two economies.

Normally Czechoslovakia is the UK's third most important market in eastern Europe, after the Soviet Union and Poland. In recent years UK trade with Czechoslovakia has, however, consistently shown an adverse balance. In 1976 British exports amounted to some £60 million, whilst Czechoslovak exports amounted to £70 million – according to UK statistics. The most important imports and exports are shown in the table opposite. The UK is normally Czechoslovakia's third largest western supplier after the Federal Republic of Germany and Austria.

Sixth five-year plan

Czechoslovakia is now in the second year of her sixth five-year plan (1976-80) which provides the framework within which the importation of capital goods from the developed west will be decided. Czechoslovakia will be seeking to increase exports, particularly to hard-currency areas and, to do this, she will be looking for imports of high-technology equipment and materials to increase industrial production and efficiency.

Investment is planned to increase by about 32 per cent over the level achieved in 1971 to 1975, but this represents less growth than during the 1971-75 period when investment was over 50 per cent higher than in the previous five years. The main areas of investment will be the engineering and chemical sectors with the main emphasis on the former, which traditionally accounts for about 46 per cent of Czechoslovakia's exports.

The principal sectors which will receive considerable investment funds are machine tools, vehicles and electronics. To provide a base for this expansion, steel production will increase from an average of 10.5 million tons per annum in the previous five-year plan, to an average of 16 million tons per annum in the current plan period, with corresponding increases in the production of steel products.

About a third of industrial investment will be devoted to the fuel and power industries – a substantially higher proportion than in the past. Due to the high cost of importing hydrocarbons, coal and lignite will continue to form the basis of energy generation in the medium term. In the longer term, nuclear energy will become the major source of electricity and heat, and investment here will be considerable in both the current and subsequent five-year plans.

In agriculture, the aim will be to achieve self-sufficiency by the end of the plan period in grain and most other foodstuffs, as well as increasing production of the main export

More information

Further information about the opportunities in Czechoslovakia is available from the First Secretary (Commercial) British Embassy, Prague 1, Thunovska 14, tel. 533347/8/9, 533340, 533370, telex 0121011. In Britain, firms may contact Commercial Relations and Exports Division 4, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1 0ET, tel 01-215 5302/5267.

crops – sugar beet and hops – and all fodder, to support domestic livestock production.

The underlying themes for each sector of the economy are increased efficiency, waste elimination and energy conservation.

The aim of the 1976-80 plan is for foreign trade to grow more rapidly than national income and industrial production, with an increase of 32 to 35 per cent over the 1970-75 period. The emphasisis is to be on exports, with a planned increase of 43 per cent.

Although the overall plan targets do not indicate a dramatic increase in imports from the developed west, they certainly do indicate that there are good prospects for a steady increase in the importation of goods with a high technology content.

The British share

Although a number of UK firms are well-established in Czechoslovakia and have obtained important business – in the automotive, chemical and metallurgical fields, in particular – UK firms generally are not perhaps so well known there as some of their main competitors. But there is no reason, if companies are prepared to spend the necessary time in visiting and servicing this worthwhile market, why the UK's share should not increase to a level more appropriate to trade between two sophisticated economies.

As in other east European markets, participation in exhibitions can be a useful means of making contacts, provided that companies see such participation as part of an overall sales effort and undertake the necessary preparation and follow-up action.

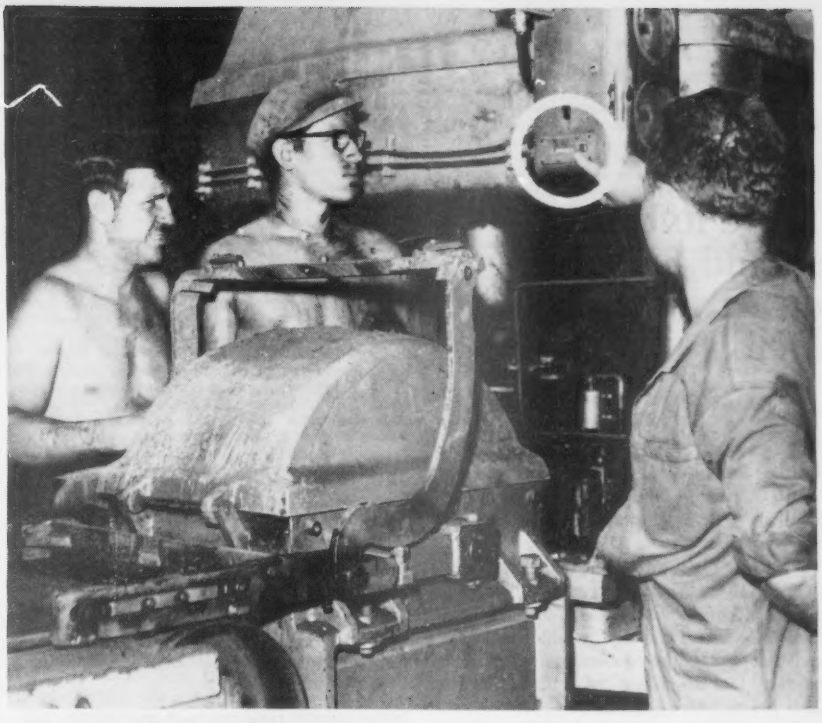
The most important Czechoslovak exhibition is the Brno international engineering fair held each year in September. About 70 British companies took part, with the support of the British Overseas Trade Board, in the 1976 fair.

A number of smaller specialised exhibitions are also held each year: recent examples have included packaging and printing, foundry equipment, chemicals, photographic equipment and food products.

It is probable that Czechoslovakia will attach increasing importance to the development of all forms of industrial co-operation with the west – an area in which Czechoslovakia has in the past lagged behind most of her CMEA partners. The 1976-80 plan places particular emphasis on the purchase of foreign licences and UK firms should be prepared for Czechoslovak interest in all forms of co-operation common elsewhere in eastern Europe, including barter and compensation trading and 'buy-back' arrangements.

Last year was a difficult one for many countries, including Czechoslovakia, but it is encouraging to note that UK-Czechoslovak trade held up remarkably well. The UK's exports to Czechoslovakia still managed to register a reasonable increase – up 21 per cent over the previous year in sterling terms – well ahead of the average for eastern Europe, and Czechoslovakia's exports to the UK registered an increase of approximately 19 per cent.

The existing trade links between Czechoslovakia and the UK form a solid base for the future and UK suppliers have reasonable hopes of doing good business. The essential requirements are patience and understanding in dealing with a planned economy which operates differently from our own, and a willingness to visit the market regularly and frequently.



An Owen-Hallsworth automatic moulding system produces its millionth mould at the Branecke Zelezarny foundry in Czechoslovakia. During the 1968 Brno trade fair, the Owen Hallsworth system was awarded a gold medal for technological achievement.

UK-Czechoslovak trade 1970-76

£ million

	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976
Exports	20.4	19.8	23.7	27.2	44.8	51.2	60.1
Imports	22.7	25.9	32.3	39.1	55.2	59.2	70.3
Balance	−2.3	−6.1	−8.6	−11.9	−10.4	−8.0	−10.2

Main UK Exports

£'000

Commodity	1975	1976
Non-electrical machinery	13,972	15,817
Chemical elements and compounds	5,405	5,722
Textile fibres not manufactured	2,757	4,469
Non-ferrous metals	1,186	3,544
Plastic materials	3,737	3,419
Electrical machinery and appliances	3,323	3,107
Scientific instruments, photographic goods, clocks	3,294	2,874
Chemical materials and products not elsewhere specified	2,318	2,779
Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles	2,205	2,730
Manufactures of metal not elsewhere specified	965	2,311

Main UK imports

£'000

Commodity	1975	1976
Non-electrical machinery	8,919	9,819
Wood, lumber and cork	7,081	8,501
Transport equipment	7,467	8,388
Footwear	5,756	6,725
Miscellaneous manufactured articles	3,737	3,888
Non-metallic mineral manufactures	3,079	3,664
Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles	3,076	3,654
Furniture	2,523	3,298
Clothing	2,593	2,879
Iron and steel	1,685	2,560

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Overseas trade news

More information should be published on African labour – Dell

The amount of information published by British firms with affiliated companies in South Africa on the wages and conditions of their African employees shows considerable variation.

Answering a written parliamentary question on 15 February Secretary of State for Trade Edmund Dell said the firms concerned had had a year in which to reflect and act upon the government's modified request for disclosure of information on their practice in this field.

He said of the 320 companies which had or might have South African interests, the position of 41 still had to be clarified; and 95 employed under 20 Africans.

Of the remaining 184, 160 had published information or were making it available to inquirers or had declared their intention of publishing it in their next annual report, 18 had published some information more limited than that sought by the white paper, and only six had declined to publish.

The information currently available, the Secretary of State said, covered the overwhelming majority of Africans employed by British subsidiaries in South Africa (see below).

The reports gave reasonable coverage to African wages but less to the information sought on the conditions of employment generally.

A minority of firms had declined for various reasons to co-operate fully, or in some cases at all, on disclosure. Several had said that refusal to publish did not imply their unwillingness to implement the code of practice.

However these firms were not giving parliament and the concerned public the opportunity of judging for themselves whether improvements were being made in the treatment of African labour. The Secretary of State hoped that these firms would reconsider their position.

Firms which have published information (or have indicated publicly that information is available) : total 70

Subsidiaries (50 per cent or more shareholding) employing 20 or more Africans

Amalgamated Power Engineering Ltd, APV Holdings Ltd, Armitage Shanks Group Ltd, Associated British Foods Ltd, Associated Portland Cement Manufacturers Ltd, Averys Ltd, Babcock and Wilcox Ltd, BBA Group Ltd, Beecham Group Ltd, Bestobell Ltd, BICC Ltd, Blackwood Hodge Ltd, Boots Co Ltd, British Leyland Motor Corporation Ltd, British Oxygen Company Ltd, British Petroleum Co Ltd, J. Brockhouse and Co Ltd, Brooke Bond Liebig Ltd, Burmah Oil Co Ltd.

Cadbury Schweppes Ltd, Cape Industries Ltd, Carrington Viyella Ltd, Chubb and Son Ltd, Clarke Chapman Ltd, Coats Patons Ltd, A. Cohen and Co (Great Britain) Ltd, Commercial Union Assurance Co Ltd, CompAir International Ltd, Delta Metal Co Ltd, Dickinson Robinson Group Ltd, Dunlop Holdings Ltd, EMI Ltd, ERF Ltd, Ever Ready Co (Holdings) Ltd, J. H. Fenner and Co (Holdings) Ltd, Gestetner Holdings Ltd, Glynwed Ltd, Guest Keen and Nettlefolds Ltd, Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd.

Lead Industries Group Ltd, Lindustries Ltd, Low and Bonar Group Ltd, Lowe and Fletcher Ltd, Metal Box Ltd, Mitchell Cotts Group Ltd, James Neill Holdings Ltd, Newman Tonks Ltd, Ozalid Group Holdings Ltd, Pilkington Brothers Ltd, Reckitt and Colman Ltd, Reed International Ltd, Reyrolle Parsons Ltd, Rio Tinto Zinc Corporation Ltd, Rowntree Mackintosh Ltd.

Sanderson Kayser Ltd, SGB Group Ltd, Shell Transport and Trading Co Ltd, Simon Engineering Ltd, South West Africa Co Ltd, Spooner Industries Ltd, Standard and Chartered Bank Ltd, Stone-Platt Industries Ltd, Tarmac Ltd, Tioxide Group Ltd, Turner and Newall Ltd, Unilever Ltd, Wilkinson Match Ltd.

Associates (less than 50 per cent shareholding) employing 20 or more Africans

Bridon Ltd, Consolidated Goldfields, Swan Hunter Group Ltd.

Firms which have not yet published, but intend to do so in their next annual report : total 46

Subsidiaries employing 20 or more Africans

AD International Ltd, Anderson Strathclyde, Armstrong Equipment, British Steel Corporation Ltd, British Vita Co Ltd, Coates Bros Ltd, Courtaulds, Drake and Scull Holdings Ltd, Dunford and Elliot Ltd, Fisons Ltd, Fodens Ltd, Formica Ltd, Foseco Minsep Ltd.

Great Universal Stores Ltd, Hawker Siddeley Group Ltd, P. C. Henderson Ltd, Hunting Group, H. and R. Johnson-Richards Tiles Ltd, George Kent Ltd, Lonrho Ltd, Lopex Ltd, Marchwiel Holdings Ltd, National Employers Mutual General Insurance Association Ltd, A. Oppenheimer and Co Ltd, Samuel Osborn and Co Ltd, Plessey Co Ltd.

Racal Electronics Ltd, Rank Xerox Ltd, RCF Holdings Ltd, Record Ridgway Ltd, Renold Ltd, Rentokil Ltd, Revertex Chemicals Ltd, Selection Trust Ltd, Taylor Woodrow Group, Telephone Rentals Ltd, Twinlock, Unicorn Industries Ltd, USMC International Ltd, Valor Co Ltd, W. Williams and Sons (Holdings) Ltd, Thos Witter and Co Ltd.

Associates employing 20 or more Africans

International Combustion (Holdings) Ltd, Kleinwort Benson, Redland Ltd, Weir Group Ltd.

Firms which have information available on request (but have not published) : total 44

Subsidiaries employing 20 or more Africans

Albright and Wilson Ltd, Associated Engineering Co Ltd, Baker Perkins Ltd, British-American Tobacco Co Ltd, British Electric Traction Co Ltd, John Brown and Co Ltd, BTR Ltd, Cavenham Foods Ltd, Chloride Group Ltd, Concrete Utilities Group Ltd, Eagle Star Insurance Co Ltd.

General Accident Fire and Life Assurance Corporation Ltd, General Electric Co Ltd, Glaxo Holdings Ltd, Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance Group, Haden Carrier Ltd, L. G. Harris and Co Ltd, Howden Group Ltd, International Computers (Holdings) Ltd, International Distillers and Vintners Ltd, Johnson Firth Brown Ltd, Johnson Matthey and Co Ltd, Lamson Industries Ltd, Legal and General Assurance Society Ltd, Joseph Lucas (Industries) Ltd.

Herbert Morris Ltd, Norwich Union Insurance Group, Portals Holdings Ltd, Prestige Group Ltd, Prudential Assurance Co Ltd, Smith and Nephew Associated Co Ltd, Smiths Industries, Sun Alliance and London Insurance Ltd, Thorn Electrical Industries Ltd, Tootal Ltd, United Wire Group Ltd, Wellcome Foundation Ltd.

Associates employing 20 or more Africans

C. T. Bowring and Co Ltd, BPB Industries Ltd, McKechnie Brothers Ltd, Mercury Securities Ltd, Royal Insurance Co Ltd, Tate and Lyle Ltd, United Dominions Trust Ltd.

Firms which have published limited information : total 18

Subsidiaries employing 20 or more Africans

Automotive Products Associated Ltd, Barclays Bank Ltd, Clayton Dewandre Holdings Ltd, Heywood Williams Group Ltd, Hill Samuel and Co Ltd, Hoover Ltd, Thomas Locker (Holdings) Ltd.

Marley Ltd, Mather and Platt Ltd, Metal Closures Group Ltd, Morgan Crucible Co Ltd, Rank Hovis McDougall Ltd, Sedgwick Forbes Holdings Ltd, Thomas Tilling Ltd,* Tube Investments Ltd, Vickers Ltd.

* Has supplementary information available on request, although not stated in the annual report.

Associates employing 20 or more Africans

Acrow (Engineers) Ltd, Charter Consolidated Ltd.

Firms which have declined to publish information : total 6

Subsidiaries employing 20 or more Africans

Barton and Sons Ltd,* C. and J. Clarke Ltd (private co)†, Crown House Ltd,* Exchem Holdings Ltd*, Thomas French and Sons Ltd†, Hickson and Welch (Holdings) Ltd.

* Have supplied information to the Department of Trade usually in confidence.

† Are prepared to make some information available conditionally.

Firms whose intentions on publication are still unclear : total 33

Subsidiaries employing 20 or more Africans

British and Commonwealth Shipping Co Ltd, David Brown Gear Industries Ltd, Caravans International Ltd, Cohen 600 Group, Consolidated Tin Smelters, Croda International Ltd, East Rand Consolidated Ltd, B. Elliott and Co Ltd, T. L. Elliott Oversea Ltd, Grundy (Teddington) Ltd, Guthrie Corporation Ltd, Hall Engineering Ltd, Lamont Holdings.

May and Hassell Ltd, Newey Group Ltd, Pritchard Services, Rubery Owen Holdings Ltd, Stroud Riley and Co Ltd, Trafalgar House, Trust Houses Forte Ltd, Vantona Ltd, George Wimpey and Co Ltd.

Associates employing 20 or more Africans

Dunbee-Combex-Marx, Goode Durrant Murray Ltd, Highams Ltd, Illingworth Morris and Co Ltd, Lockwoods Foods Ltd.

Manders (Holdings) Ltd, Saunders Valve Co, Steetly and Co Ltd, Union International Co Ltd, Westinghouse Brake and Signal Co Ltd, Willis Faber and Dumas (Holdings) Ltd.

Firms whose subsidiaries or associates employ less than 20 Africans : total 95

G. and S. Allgood Ltd, Allied Colloids Manufacturing Co Ltd, Associated Book Publishers Ltd, Associated Octel Co Ltd, Baring Brothers and Co Ltd, Barrow Hepburn Group Ltd, Bifurcated Engineering Co Ltd, Birmid Qualcast Ltd, Boosey and Hawkes Ltd, Bowthorpe Holdings Ltd, Brent Chemicals Ltd, British Airways Board, British Printing Corporation Ltd, Brown Bayley Ltd, W. Canning and Co Ltd, Centrovincial Estates Ltd, Chamberlain Phipps Ltd, Charterhouse Group Ltd, Wm. Collins (Publishers) Ltd, Craven Fawcett Ltd, Davy International Ltd, Dawson International Ltd, Decca Ltd, Desoutter Bros (Holdings) Ltd, Distillers Co Ltd, Doulton and Co Ltd, F. Dupre Ltd.

Ellerman Lines Ltd, Energy Services and Electronics Ltd, Frank Fehr and Co Ltd, Grant Barnett and Co Ltd, Greens Economiser Group Ltd, Hamilton Star Ltd, Harrisons and Crosfield Ltd, Head Wrightson and Co Ltd, W. Heinemann Ltd, Alfred Herbert Ltd, Hogg Robinson and Co Ltd, Howard Machinery Ltd, Hudson's Bay and Annings Ltd, Hutchinson Ltd, Incledon and Lamberts Ltd, William Jacks and Co Ltd, Keep Bros Ltd, Harold Laycock (Bradford) Holdings Ltd, Lep Group Ltd, Lowe and Carr Ltd, LRC International Ltd, Edward Lumley and Sons Ltd.

Macmillan (Holdings) Ltd, Matthews Wrightson (Holdings) Ltd, J. H. Minet (Holdings) Ltd, Mobbs Miller Ltd, Monotype Corporation Ltd, Marshalls (Halifax) Ltd, Negretti and Zambra Ltd, Norcros, Pearson Longman Ltd, Pegler-Hattersley Ltd, P. E. International Ltd, Perivale Gutermann Ltd, Phillips Electronic and Associated Industries Ltd, Phoenix Assurance Co Ltd, Powell Duffryn Ltd, Provincial Insurance Co Ltd, Randalls Group Ltd.

Ransome Hoffman Pollard Ltd, Ransomes Sims and Jefferies Ltd, Thomas Robinson and Sons Ltd, Roussel Laboratories Ltd, Royal Sovereign Group Ltd, Walter Runciman and Co Ltd, George Salter and Co Ltd, Senior Engineering Group Ltd, Serck Ltd, Staflex International Ltd, Stenhouse Reed Shaw and Partners Ltd.

John Tann Security Ltd, The Thomson Organisation Ltd, Towles Ltd, Toye and Co Ltd, Tozer Kemsley and Millbourn (Holdings) Ltd, TPT Ltd, Tufnol Industries Ltd.

UKO International Ltd, Unigate Ltd, United City Merchants Ltd, Urwick Orr and Partners Ltd, Vernon Carus Ltd, Walker Crossweller, Andrew Weir and Co Ltd, Wellman Engineering Corporation Ltd, B. S. and W. Whiteley Ltd, Wolf Electrical Tools (Holdings) Ltd, Yorkshire Switchgear and Engineering Co.

Firms listed previously as having interests in South Africa but whose present interests have yet to be clarified: total 8

Beckett Laycock and Watkinson Ltd, Bridgend Investment Trust Ltd, W. and G. Foyle Ltd, Heenan Spark Ltd, Industrial Inspection (International) Ltd, Lister and Co Ltd, A. E. Smith Coggins Ltd, Jonas Woodhead and Sons Ltd.

Firms which have told the Department of Trade either that they have no direct interests in South Africa or that they employ no Africans; or whose interests are the responsibility of some other listed company: total 209

Aaronson Brothers Ltd, Abbott Laboratories Ltd, Aberdare Holdings Ltd, ACE Machinery (Holdings) Ltd, Adamson Alliance Ltd, Affiliated Music Publishers Ltd, Air Holdings Ltd, Air Products Ltd, Jeramiah Ambler Ltd, Ampex Electronics Ltd, Anchor Chemical Co Ltd, George Angus and Co Ltd, Atkinson Lorries (Holdings) Ltd.

Baird and Tatlock, Bardolin Ltd, George Bassett Holdings Ltd, Bay Hall Trust Ltd, John Beales Association Companies Ltd, Bear Brand Ltd, Black and Decker, Black Edgington Ltd, Blythe, Green Jourdain and Co, Bowater Corporation, Robert Bradford (Holdings) Ltd, Brightside Engineering Holdings Ltd, British Carpets Ltd, British Cellophane Ltd, British Land Co Ltd, British Steel Construction (Birmingham) Ltd, British Tourist Authority, British United Shoe Machinery Co Ltd, H. P. Bulmer Ltd, Bunzel Pulp and Paper Ltd, Bydand Ltd.

Cable and Wireless Holdings Ltd, Cable Trust Ltd, Caledonia Investments Ltd, Carlton Industries, Carpets International, Carrier Engineering Co Ltd, CCL Systems Ltd, Cementation Co Ltd, Chalwyn Lamps Ltd, Chloride Alcad, Clarke Nicholls and Coombs Ltd, Clarkson International Tools, Clayton Son and Co, H. Clegg and Co Ltd, Coast Lines Ltd, J. Collett Ltd, Commonwealth Development Corporation, Commonwealth Development Finance Co Ltd, Copperad Holdings, Wm. Cory and Son Ltd, Court Line Ltd, Crabtree Electrical Industries, Cussons Group Ltd.

Dalgety Ltd, Davidson and Co Ltd, Dawson and Barfos Ltd, Wm. Dawson and Sons, Derby and Co Ltd, Dowty Group Ltd, Duport Ltd, Dust Control Equipment Ltd, East Sussex Engineering Co Ltd, Eastwood and Holt Ltd, Ebonite Container Co Ltd, Economist Intelligence Unit Ellams Duplicator Co Ltd, English China Clays Ltd, Evans Brothers Ltd, Leonard Fairclough Ltd, Federated Paints Ltd, Feedmobile Ltd, Denis Ferranti Meters Ltd, Finance for Industry, Firth Cleveland, A. B. Fleming (Holdings) Ltd, Alexander Fraser and Son Ltd, French Kier Holdings Ltd.

Gala Cosmetic Group Ltd, Gandy Ltd, Geest Industries Ltd, Geigy Co Ltd, GHP Group, Globe Investment Trust Ltd, Goblin BVC Ltd, Gourock Ropework Co Ltd, N. Greening and Sons, Hall-Thermotank Ltd, Hallam Sleigh and Cheston Ltd, James Halstead Holdings Ltd, L. Hammond and Co (Holdings) Ltd, Hampson Industries Ltd, Hartle Machinery Co Ltd, Quinton Hazell (Holdings) Ltd, A. and S. Henry and Co Ltd, Arthur Hentzen and Co Ltd. Hield Brothers Ltd, Hill and Delamain, H. R. Holfeld (Belfast) Ltd, Hopkinsons Holdings Ltd, Alex Howden (Holdings) Ltd, Howe Richardson Scale Co Ltd. Robert Hudson Ltd.

Ingersoll-Rand Co Ltd, Insulation Equipment Ltd, Isaac Jackson Holdings Ltd, Jessel Securities Ltd, Jeyes Products Ltd, Johnson and Philips Ltd, Gordon Johnson-Stephens (Holdings) Ltd, Kalamazoo Ltd, Kangol Ltd, W. H. G. Kingston Ltd, Laird Group, Landel Trust Ltd, Laurence Scott and Electromotors Ltd, Lloyds and Scottish Ltd, London Merchant Securities, Manbré and Garton Ltd, Manifold Transport Services Ltd, Marconi International Marine Co, Marks and Spencer Ltd, Melbray Group Ltd, Metal Traders Strauss Ltd, Midland Electric Manufacturing Co Ltd, Mills and Allen Ltd, Molins Ltd, Montagu Trust Ltd, Motor Rail, Minerva Fire Detector Ltd, Mullards Radio Valve Co.

Nairn International (Holdings) Ltd, Isaac Naylor and Sons Ltd, Newton Chamber Ltd, James North and Sons Ltd, Norvic Shoe Co Ltd, Ofrex Group Ltd, Oldham International, Pancreol, Parkinson Cowan Ltd, Patons and Baldwins Ltd, Pearl Assurance Co Ltd, Peninsular and Oriental Steamship Co Ltd, Pergamon Press Ltd, Perkins Engines Ltd, Permali Ltd, Permutit Co Ltd, G. D. Peters and Co Ltd, Photo-Me International Ltd, Pilkington Tiles Ltd, Isaac Pitman and Sons Ltd, F. Pratt Engineering, Prodorite Ltd.

Rabone Chesterman Ltd, Reeves and Sons Ltd, Rexnord Nordberg Machinery Ltd, Rockweld Ltd, Rothmans Ltd, Rotork Ltd, Ruberoid Ltd, Sadia Water Heaters Ltd, Fred Sage and Co Ltd, Sagit Trust Ltd, A. Sanderson and Sons Ltd, Scholefield Goodman and Sons Ltd, Schreiber Wood Industries Ltd, Scottish Cables Ltd, Sears Holdings Ltd, Seddon Diesel Vehicles Ltd, Sempah Holdings Ltd, Sheffield Twist Drill & Steel Co Ltd, Siebe Gorman Ltd, Sirdar Ltd, Smith and Wellstood, Somic Ltd, Sound Attenuators Ltd, South Mills (Textiles) Ltd, Spear and Jackson Ltd, Steel Group, Stein Atkinson Stordy Ltd, Steinberg and Sons Ltd, Storey Brothers and Co Ltd, Stothert and Pitt Ltd, Bernard Sunley Investment Trust.

Tecalemit Ltd, Telehoist Ltd, Thurston and Co Ltd, Town and City Properties Ltd, Transport Development Group Ltd, United Transport Overseas Ltd, Vapormatic, Allen West and Co Ltd, Westbourne Group, Whessoe Ltd, F. Whitley and Co Ltd, Wiggins Teape Ltd, J. Wilkes Ltd, Willows Francis Ltd, R. Wolff and Co Ltd, Wilmot Breeden (Holdings) Ltd, A. C. Wood and Sons Ltd, Woodhall-Duckham Group Ltd, Wood Hall Trust Ltd, Woolcombers (Holdings) Ltd, Yarrow and Co Ltd, A. C. Young and Co Ltd.

Notices to importers

Issued by the Department of Trade, Import Licensing Branch, Charles House, 375 Kensington High Street, London W14 8QH. Telephone inquiries should be addressed to the number at the end of the notice.

1599: Amendments to quotas under the EEC/Hong Kong textile agreement

Following the initialling of the EEC/Hong Kong textile agreement, notice to importers 1516, published in *Trade and Industry* on 24 October 1975, set out the quota levels for imports to the UK in 1975, 1976 and 1977 of certain textile items from Hong Kong.

The text of the agreement has now been amended by council regulation 3160/76, so that certain items previously subject to restriction have now been removed from the coverage of the agreement. These items comprise made-up articles of silk or noil or other waste silk, of flax or of ramie, falling within tariff headings 60.04, 60.05, 61.01, 61.02, 61.03, 61.04 and 62.02. Surveillance licences will, however, be required for these goods if consigned to the UK from outside the EEC; details of the surveillance licensing arrangements are set out in notice to importers 1502.

In addition, the position of certain babies' garments has been clarified; quota levels have in some cases been adjusted to reflect permitted flexibility of quota usage from year to year; and the coverage of category 5 has been slightly extended to cover all knitted or crocheted outer garments and clothing accessories falling within tariff heading 60.05, not covered by category 4.

A revised table setting out the items covered by the agreement, and the levels to be adhered to for the calendar year 1977, is published below. The licensing arrangements for goods covered by these restrictions remain as set out in notice to importers 1516.

Inquiries: Import Licensing Branch, tel. 01-603 4644 ext. 275.

Category no. and tariff heading/ Description of goods	UK quota level 1977
1/ex 51.04, ex 55.09, ex 56.07 Woven fabrics of cotton or of synthetic textile fibres, unbleached or bleached, of which:	17,464 (tonnes)
1A/ex 51.04, ex 56.07 Woven fabrics of synthetic textile fibres, unbleached or bleached	7,371 (tonnes)
2/ex 51.04, ex 55.09, ex 56.07 Woven fabrics of cotton or of synthetic textile fibres, other than unbleached or bleached ,of which:	8,187 (tonnes)
2A/ex 51.04, ex 56.07 Woven fabrics of synthetic textile fibres, other than unbleached or bleached	4,182 (tonnes)
3/ex 60.04 Undergarments, knitted or crocheted, not elastic or rubberised, *other than babies' garments and other then garments of silk or noil or other waste silk, of flax or of ramie,* the following: shirts, T shirts, undervests, singlets and the like. Note: under vests and singlets count as half a unit	11,473 (000 units)
4/ex 60.05 Outer garments and clothing accessories, knitted or crocheted, not elastic nor rubberised, *other than infants' garments and other than garments of silk or noil or other waste silk, of flax or of ramie,* the following: jerseys, pullovers, slipovers, twinsets, cardigans, bed jackets and jumpers	17,761 (000 items)
5/ex 60.05 Outer garments and clothing accessories, knitted or crocheted, not elastic not rubberised, *other than those of silk or noil or other waste silk, of flax or of ramie,* the following: infants' garments, garments not covered by category 4 above and clothing accessories	1,924 (tonnes)
6/ex 61.01, ex 61.02 Men's, boys', women's girls' and infants' (*other than babies'*) outer garments, *other than those of silk or noil or other waste silk, of flax or of ramie,* the following: raincoats of the overcoat type	595 (000 items)
7/ex 61.01 Men's and boys' outer garments, *other than those of silk or noil or other waste silk, of flax or of ramie,* the following: suits, jackets, blazers and the like (Note: one suit counts as two units)	3,146 (000 units)
8/ex 61.01 Men's and boys' outer garments, *other than those of silk or noil or other waste silk, of flax or of ramie,* the following: trousers, jeans, breeches and the like **ex 61.02** Women's, girls' and infants' (*other than babies'*) outer garments, *other than those of silk or noil or other waste silk, of flax or of ramie,* the following: trousers (including jeans), shorts and the like, *other than divided skirts*	26,213 (000 pairs)
9/ex 61.02 Women's, girls' and infants' (*other than babies'*) outer garments, *other than those of silk or noil or other waste silk, of flax or of ramie,* the following: coats (*other than raincoats of the overcoat type*) and jackets	1,436 (000 items)
10/ex 61.02 Women's, girls' and infants' (*other than babies'*) outer garments, *other than those of silk or noil or other*	4,642 (000 items)

Category no. and tariff heading/ Description of goods	UK quota level 1977
waste silk, of flax or of ramie, the following:	
dresses and skirts (including divided skirts)	
11/ex 61.02	
Women's, girls' and infants' (*other than babies'*) outer garments, *other than those of silk or noil or other waste silk, of flax or or ramie,* the following:	5,936 (000 items)
shirts and blouses	
12/ex 61.03	
Men's and boys' under garments, including collars, shirt fronts and cuffs, *other than those of silk or noil or other waste silk, of flax or of ramie,* the following:	27,735 (000 items)
shirts	
13/ex 61.03, ex 61.04	
Men's, boys', women's, girls' and infants' (*other than babies'*) under garments, *other than those of silk or noil or other waste silk, of flax or of ramie,* the following:	4,226 (000 items)
pyjamas, nightdresses and other night garments	
14/ex 62.02	
Bed linen, table linen, toilet linen and kitchen linen; curtains (*other than net curtains*) and other furnishing articles, *other than of silk or noil or other waste silk, of flax or of ramie,* the following:	4,302 (tonnes)
bed linen, table linen, toilet linen and kitchen linen	
15	
Not applicable to UK	
16/ex 60.04	
Under garments, knitted or crocheted, not elastic or rubberised, *other than those of silk or noil or other waste silk, of flax or of ramie,* the following:	
other than shirts, T-shirts, under-vests, singlets and the like, men's and boy's drawers and briefs, but including all babies' garments	802 (tonnes)
17/ex 61.01, ex 61.02	
Men's, boys', women's, girls' and infants' (*other than babies'*) outer garments, *other than those of silk or noil or other waste silk, of flax or of ramie,* the following:	1,710 (000 items)
waterproof garments and raincoats, *other than raincoats of the overcoat type*	
18/ex 61.01, ex 61.02	
Men's, boys', women's, girls' and infants' (*other than babies'*) outer garments, *other than those of silk or noil or other waste silk, of flax or of ramie,* the following:	2,352 (000 items)
work clothing	
19/ex 61.01, ex 61.02	
Men's, boys', women's, girls' and infants' (*other than babies'*) outer garments, *other than those of silk or noil or other waste silk, of flax or of ramie,* the following:	455 (000 items)
articles of apparel used for sports	
20/ex 61.01	
Men's and boys' outer garments, *other than those of silk or noil or other waste silk, of flax or of ramie,* the following:	
other than waterproof garments, suits, jackets, blazers and the like, trousers, breeches and the like, work clothing and articles of apparel used for sports	3,033 (tonnes)
ex 61.02	
Women's, girls' and infants' outer garments, *other than those of silk or noil or other waste silk, of flax or of ramie,* the following:	
other than waterproof garments, trousers, jeans, shorts and the like, coats and jackets, dresses and skirts, shirts and blouses, but including all babies' garments	
21/ex 61.03	
Men's and boys' under garments including collars, shirt fronts and cuffs, *other than those of silk or noil or other waste silk, of flax or of ramie,* the following:	
other than shirts, pyjamas and other night garments	4,792 (000 items)
ex 61.04	
Women's, girls' and infants' under garments, *other than those of silk or noil or other waste silk, of flax or of ramie,* the following:	
other than pyjamas, nightdresses and other night wear, but including all babies' garments.	

Amendment to notice to importers 1598

The following entry under the heading 'Romania' should be deleted and inserted under the next heading 'Singapore':

55.05 cotton yarn not put up for retail sale

East African Airways tickets

As East African Airways has suspended its services on most international routes, the Civil Aviation Authority advises the public to exercise particular caution with regard to East African Airways tickets.

The authority believes that a number of blank East African Airways tickets are available in the London area, and advises prospective passengers not to purchase these until the airline is able to confirm that services have been or are to be resumed by the date of their proposed flight.

Applications for temporary exemption from import duty

The Department of Trade is considering applications for the temporary exemptions from import duty of the materials listed below on the grounds that these materials are not made in this country or the supply available is not substantial having regard to the existing UK demand.

Representations are invited from manufacturers in this country who consider they are, or will be within a reasonable period, in a position to supply a substantial proportion of the UK demand for these materials, or who are interested in their future production.

Temporary exemptions come into effect on the operative date of the authorising legislation and will remain in operation until the date shown in column 4 below or for such shorter period as may be justified.

Interested parties who wish to make representations should address them to General Division, Department of Trade, Kingsgate House, 66/74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ, preferably through a trade association, giving the respective reference shown below and stating whether their names may be passed to the applicants for temporary exemption.

Representations should be received by 25 February.

Tariff heading	Proposed definition for tariff purposes	Applied for as	Exemption required until	Reference
28.14	Phosphorus pentachloride	As in previous column	30 June 1977	G/T 16046
29.36	Toluene-4-sulphonamide	Para-toluene sulphonamide	30 June 1977	T 14082
	Toluenesulphonamide, mixed isomers, containing not less than 50 per cent by weight and not more than 60 per cent by weight of toluene-4-sulphonamide	Ortho and para-toluene sulphonamide	30 June 1977	T 14180
39.02	Poly (α-methylstyrene), in one of the forms mentioned in note 3(b) to chapter 39	Poly α-methyl styrene resin	30 June 1978	G/T 15951

Hints to business men booklets

Revised editions of the booklets on Finland, German Democratic Republic, Paraguay, and Sudan have been published in the *Hints to business men* series. British business men who intend visiting these countries on export business can obtain copies of the booklets from Export Services and Promotions Division, Department of Trade, Room D 05, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU, tel. 01-248 5757 ext. 7146, or any regional office of the Department of Industry.

Advertisements are accepted for all booklets in the series which covers over 100 countries. Inquiries about advertising should be addressed to Cheiron Press Ltd, 8/10 Parkway, London NW1 7AD, tel. 01-267 1285.

SeaSell for September

A floating exhibition to Scandinavia to sell the products and services of the north of England is being planned by the North of England Development Council.

The plan is to charter the 12,000 ton Olsen/Bergen Line cruise ship *Bolero* for a 12-day seaborne selling mission 'SeaSell '77' from 5 to 17 September.

The *Bolero* will sail from the River Tyne on a 3,000 mile voyage, staging the exhibition in turn in Bergen (Norway), Gothenburg and Stockholm (Sweden), Helsinki (Finland) and Copenhagen (Denmark).

Space will be made available on a first-come-first-served basis, but it is intended that exhibitors taking part will ideally represent a good cross section of regional industry.

Further information can be obtained from Mrs Ann Cranton, The North of England Development Council, Bank House, Carliol Square, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 6XE, tel. Newcastle (0642) 23806.

Anglo-Philippine financial conference

A top-level City of London group is attending a joint Anglo-Philippine financial conference in Manila, from 21 to 23 February. The leader of the British mission will be Lord Goronwy-Roberts, Minister of

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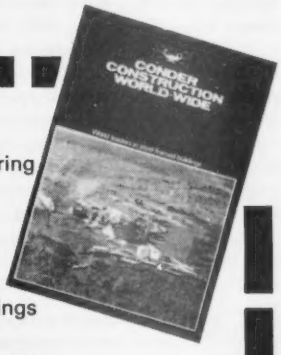

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- ☐ Sports Halls & Leisure Buildings
- ☐ Land, Sea & Air Transport
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WORLD LEADERS IN STEEL FRAMED BUILDINGS

ENCIRCLE TI 390 ON PAGE 471 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

The conference, to be opened by President Marcos, is being organised by the Committee on Invisible Exports in co-operation with the British Overseas Trade Board and the South East Asia Trade Advisory Group in London, and with the Department of Industry, Bankers' Association of the Philippines and the British embassy in Manila.

The leader of the City group will be Lord Denman, chairman of Tennant Guaranty.

Bristol to investigate Californian market

California is to be visited by a Bristol chamber of commerce official trade mission between 9 and 19 May 1977.

The chamber says that United States' buyers are constantly searching for new sources of merchandise and always welcome direct contact with British salesmen, and British goods could achieve considerably greater sales if British exporters attacked the market with more energy.

Mission to Chicago for Cardiff

Chicago is the target for a Cardiff Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mission on 12 to 22 September. This mission will give members the opportunity to investigate the enormous purchasing power of the American mid-west. Arrangements will be kept as flexible as possible to provide members with the opportunity of visiting the many other important cities of the region all of which are within easy reach of Chicago.

Further details can be obtained from R. C. Smale, The Cardiff Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 101-108 The Exchange, Mount Stuart Square, Cardiff CF1 6RD, tel. Cardiff (0222) 21648.

Britain can stage it – seminar

Britain now has the facilities for staging major international conferences and exhibitions and these should be promoted to increase overseas earnings. This was the message from a seminar, 'Britain as a world conference and exhibition centre', held on 8 February at the new Wembley Conference Centre.

Speakers at the seminar included, Sir Alexander Glen, chairman of the British Tourist Authority, Jim Wilks, chief executive of the British Overseas Trade Board, Len Lickorish, director-general of the BTA, and Lord Garnock, vice-chairman of the BOTB's North American advisory group.

Sir Alexander Glen said that the promotion of Britain overseas as a major country for staging international exhibitions and conferences had become necessary because of the opening of large modern exhibition and conference complexes such as the National Exhibition Centre at Birmingham, and the Wembley Conference Centre, and in the near future, the Brighton Centre, Harrogate, and Barbican. Sir Alexander also described the role of BTA in encouraging overseas visitors to come to this country. Later, Mr Lickorish and Bill Richards of BTA gave more details of BTA's role and explained the benefits which overseas visitors bring to the UK travel, hotel and catering industries.

Mr Wilks explained the role of the BOTB's various schemes which were available to help British industry and exhibition and conference organisers, and Jeffery Frost, executive director of the Committee on Invisible Exports, outlined the way in which his committee provides help to the finance houses in the City of London to promote invisible earnings, such as insurance and banking, by arranging seminars in overseas countries with BOTB support.

Paul Saulter, secretary general of the British Chamber of Commerce France, described the pilot scheme, operating in France in conjunction with the BTA and the British embassy, which promotes selected exhibitions in the UK. The Offshore International exhibition held at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, in December 1976 was one particular event successfully promoted under this scheme.

Lord Garnock said that in 1977 there was likely to be 11.25 million visitors, which was an increase of some 12 per cent over 1976, and this could mean an increase in earnings of some 25 per cent – totalling £2,500 million. For the first time the amount spent by overseas visitors in Britain was equal to what the British on a holiday at home spent and far exceeded what British people spent abroad.

In the afternoon there were two discussion groups: one, chaired by Mr Wilks, dealt with exhibitions and the other, chaired by Len Lickorish, covered conferences.

As a result of the discusssions BOTB agreed to look at means by which a greater emphasis in the allocation of resources can be given to the UK exhibition industry to help attract greater numbers of overseas visitors.

The group agreed there was a need for total co-ordination of travel, hotel and other ancillary facilities for exhibitions and conferences and that an examination should be made through the appropriate channels of the difficulties which arise in arranging package facilities. The group felt that organisers should consider whether they could take advantage of the services available through the BOTB's Export Intelligence Service and Export Marketing Research scheme. It was agreed that a working party should be set up to meet in March to discuss the problems resulting from the proliferation of exhibitions and that there was a need for detailed information on events to be provided well in advance to enable full and accurate publicity to be given to them overseas.

The conferences study group agreed that, while some of the services provided by BOTB were not entirely relevant to their needs, there were some areas in which BOTB might be able to help the industry and that these should be looked at further. It was felt that there was considerable value in publicising successful events overseas as this would help to make the UK's facilities better known.

The group asked that the pilot scheme for publicising UK exhibitions in Paris should be considered by BOTB and BTA for publicising conferences. It was also agreed that if further meetings similar to the present one were organised they might take the form of workshops with specific subjects for discussion.

In conclusion Mr Wilks said that in this Export Year and Jubilee Year, the advent of the new conference and exhibition facilities in this country made the timing of the seminar particularly appropriate. He was grateful for the high quality of participation and thanked those who had attended this unique gathering of so many people from the conference and exhibition industries.

Jim Wilks, chief executive, British Overseas Trade Board (fourth from the left), and other speakers at the Wembley seminar: (left to right) Paul Saulter, secretary-general, British Chamber of Commerce in France; Len Lickorish, director general, BTA; Sir Alexander Glen, chairman, BTA and Jeffery Frost, executive director, Committee on Invisible Exports.

Overseas trade country data

Argentina

Capital goods. Under Central Bank circular RC 672 the terms applicable to payments for imports of non-capital goods are also applied to imports of capital goods not exceeding US$25,000. Imports of capital goods exceeding US$25,000 are still subject to the payment terms laid down in circular 641.

Amendments to payment terms. Central Bank circular RC 678, which took effect on 28 January 1977, establishes that 75 per cent of payments for imports exceeding US$25,000 may now be paid on sight and the balance at 180 days. Imports not exceeding US$25,000 may be paid on sight. These terms do not apply to imports of capital goods exceeding US$25,000.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 474/476.

Australia

Export pricing for the Australian market. Exporters will be aware that the Australian government introduced a package of selective tariff cuts following devaluation in November 1976. The general rate of duty on some 700 items was reduced to the British preferential tariff rate with effect from 29 January 1977.

Companies are advised to examine their pricing policies not only as a result of Australian devaluation and the tariff changes but also to take account of sterling depreciation in 1976. UK exporters invoicing in Australian dollar terms may wish to consider to what extent their prices should be increased to take account of Australian dollar devaluation. More frequent reviewing of prices might also be beneficial since the dollar is now administered by means of a 'managed float'.

The loss of the British preferential margin is, no doubt, a significant factor in the export pricing of many goods. Australian importers may or may not decide to reduce their prices as a result of the reduction in tariffs. But whatever these importers decide to do, UK exporters are advised to review their own prices to ensure that they remain competitive.

The British preferential margin still remains on a wide range of goods imported by Australia but it is being phased out as the Industries Assistance Commission reviews the tariff. Companies would be advised to take account of this steady phasing-out in planning their export pricing and marketing policies.

Full details of the tariff changes and levels of the British preferential margin are available.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5318/9. Ref. CRE 50468

Further information

In many cases further information on the notices published on these pages is available to British exporters from the Department of Trade. The main branches concerned are: Commercial Relations and Exports (CRE) Division, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET (tel: direct dialling); and Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section (OTAR), Export Data Branch, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel: 01-248 5757). In each case, the relevant information source is indicated at the end of the notice by its initials (OTAR or CRE) and, in the case of OTAR, the telephone extension.

Umbrellas: location and date of the public hearing. A notice in *Trade and Industry*, 22 October 1976, reported a request for temporary protection against imports of rain umbrellas falling within item 66.01.100 of the customs tariff.

The public hearing took place at the Public Inquiry Room, Industries Assistance Commission, Kings Avenue, Canberra, ACT 2600, on 16 February.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5319. Ref. CRE 1741/76

Agricultural wheeled tractors exceeding 105kW: location and time of the public hearings. A notice in *Trade and Industry*, 4 February 1977, reported a reference to the Industries Assistance Commission on the question whether assistance should be accorded the production in Australia of agricultural wheeled tractors exceeding 105kW.

The commission will hold public hearings into this reference at the Bankruptcy Court, 8th Floor, Lombard House, 251 Adelaide Terrace, Perth, Western Australia, commencing at 2.00 pm on Wednesday, 16 March 1977, and at the Public Inquiry Room, 6th Floor, 200 Little Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria, commencing at 10.00 am, Tuesday, 5 April 1977.

Evidence must be submitted either through the accredited agent of the firm or trade association concerned or through the Australian-British Trade Association, 6th Floor, Dorland House, 18-20 Lower Regent Street, London SW1, tel. 01-930 2524, who will represent UK interests if authorised. The association charges a fee for its services, the amount varying according to the work entailed in the preparation of a submission and whether or not the interested party is a member.

Inquiries: 01-215 5319. Ref. CRE 175/77

Austria

Duty-free quota and ceilings for paper, steel and aluminium. The Federal Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry announced on 30 December 1976 that in accordance with the provisions of protocol 1 of the EEC/Austria trade agreement, duty-free quotas have been fixed for 1977 in respect of imports of UK and Danish origin of those paper and paper products falling within chapters 48 and 49 of the Austrian customs tariff which are subject to the special arrangements set out in this protocol.

Further, ceilings for 1977 have been established in respect of certain paper and paper products falling within chapter 48, alloy steel and high carbon steel of tariff heading 73.15 and unwrought aluminium of tariff heading 76.01 originating in the enlarged EEC.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 459/461.

Barbados

Toothpaste: import licensing. By SI No 9 of 1977, the Barbados authorities have withdrawn toothpaste (tariff no. 33.06.2) from the list of those goods which require a licence for their importation into Barbados.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 7312/456/457.

Canada

Withdrawal of British preference on colour tv sets. On 31 December 1976, the Canadian Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce announced the withdrawal of the British preferential tariff on imports of colour television receivers with 16 in screen size or larger for the years 1977 to 1979 inclusive. The general preferential tariff has also been withdrawn.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5397.

Dominica

New customs tariff. By Act 28 of 1976, the Dominican authorities have introduced a new single-tier customs tariff which abolishes the Commonwealth preferential duty rate.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 7312/456/457.

Ecuador

Agency law. Law 1038-A, published on 31 December 1976, governs the relationship between principals and their agents, distributors or representatives. The aim of this new law is to protect the interests of these local agents in Ecuador by laying down conditions for the termination of agency agreements. The law also states the penalties for the non-compliance with these conditions.

A copy of the law, in Spanish, is available from OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 474/476.

Motor vehicle imports: global quota fixed. The ban on the import of motor vehicles has been lifted (*Trade and Industry*, 24 December, page 883).

The Ecuador Ministry of Commerce has now announced that a global ceiling of $US28,565,000 cif has been fixed for car imports during 1977. However cars imported by means of commercial barter arrangements and those imported duty-free will not be included in this figure. This ceiling figure is being shared out amongst the main car exporters to Ecuador and the quotas set represent 60 per cent of the average imports effected during 1973-75. The quota fixed for the UK is $US1,302,000 cif.

The new regulations also state that the quotas will be divided into three-month periods and that importers will also be given quotas representing 60 per cent of their imports during 1973-75. In addition, importers will be required to bring in spare parts amounting to no less than 8 per cent of the cif value of each imported car (this rule will not affect those firms that specialise in importing spare parts only).

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 474/476.

Egypt

Agency legislation. There have been some changes in Egyptian agency law recently. The position, as from 1 January 1977, is as follows:

1 Agents can be from the public sector, ie state trading companies, or private sector (Ref. Law 118/1975).
2 Agents must be of Egyptian nationality, born of two Egyptian parents and have been resident in Egypt for at least five years. They should not have been Civil Servants for at least two years (Ref. Law 14/1976).
3 Agencies must be 100 per cent Egyptian owned and the Board of Directors must be composed entirely of Egyptians (Ref. Law 14/1976).
4 Agents must be given exclusivity throughout Egypt for a product: regional agents are not permitted. But a firm may appoint separate agents for separate products.
5 Agents must be registered with the Commercial Agents Register (part of the Ministry of Foreign Trade) at 26 July Street, Cairo. The registration details must include the commission to be paid (Ref. Law 1906/1974).
6 Purchasing Committees of Egyptian *public* sector companies are only allowed to accept offers/tenders submitted through agents, public or private sector (Ref. Laws 947/1976 and 733/1975).
7 Private sector purchasers may accept any offer they wish, whether submitted through an agent or not.

Copies of the laws referred to above can be obtained from OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 458. General inquiries: CRE 01-215 5225/5358.

Fiji

Import duty change. The Fiji Minister of Finance has announced the Customs Tariff Ordinance (Amendment) (No 8) Order 1976 which came into force on 20 December 1976. The first schedule to the customs tariff ordinance is amended so that it now reads:

Item no	Description	Import duty		Export duty
		Fiscal	Customs	
48.18.00.01	Copy and exercise books of a kind used by students	25%	7½%	Free

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 469/401/468.

France

Taxes on alcohol. With effect from 1 February the fabrication and consumption taxes have been increased.

The new rates can be summarised as follows, the amounts being francs per hectolitre of absolute alcohol:

Fabrication tax	
Whisky, gin, vodka and anisated aperitifs	1,920 Frs
Other beverages subject to this tax	645 Frs
Toiletries and perfumery	495 Frs
Medicaments	190 Frs
Consumption tax	
Rum and creme de cassis	3,100 Frs
Liqueur wines subject to controlled appellation of origin produced in the EEC and spirits derived from wine, marcs, apples, cider or mirabelle plums, also of EEC origin	3,490 Frs
All other spirits, liqueur wines and miscellaneous items subject to the tax	3,880 Frs

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 423.

German Democratic Republic

Pharmaceutical regulations. The second edition of the Pharmacopeia of the GDR has been published and took effect on 1 January. It replaces the 1964 edition DAB 7 DDR. The seven loose-leaf volumes contain the quality testing and safety regulations for all pharmaceuticals including sera, vaccines and veterinary preparations. The quality regulations for the production and preparation of pharmaceuticals are said to have been revised. The German title of the new publication is Arzneibuch Der DDR, 2. Ausgabe. Copies of the book are distributed by Buch-Export, 701 Leipzig, Leninstrasse 16, Leipzig, tel. 76.61, telex 051 678, and its overseas agents.

No further information is available.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 466.

Five-year plan: 1976-80. A paper summarising the plan is available on request to either the Commercial Relations and Exports Division (Section 4), Department of Trade, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, tel. 01-215 3381, or the Market Intelligence Library, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4, tel. 01-247 5737 ext. 368.

Greece

Imports of soya oil. The Greek Ministry of Commerce is to allow synthetic resin manufacturers to import 1,000 tons of soya oil from EEC countries.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 439.

Israel

Standard for non-refillable liquefied gas containers. The following Israeli standard has now been declared official and compliance with it will be compulsory 60 days from 13 January 1977:

IS No 844 – Non-refillable liquefied gas containers.

The Standards Institution of Israel issues an English translation of the standard and copies may be obtained from the British Standards Institution Library, 2 Park Street, London W1 (tel. 01-629 9000, telex 266933).

British exporters requiring technical advice are advised to contact Technical Help to Exporters, British Standards Institution, Maylands Avenue, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 4SQ (tel. 0442 3111, telex 82424).

No further information is available.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 458/461.

Ivory Coast

Changes in VAT. The rates of value added tax for all products have been increased as follows:

9.5% increased to 10%; 20.5% increased to 22%. The higher rate of 33.5% is unchanged.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 472/471/473/462.

Libya

Import restrictions. The Ministry of Economy has announced that steel pipes of ⅜ in to 4 in diameter and of 6 in to 50 in diameter together with aluminium pipes are subject to import licensing. Well casing pipes are excluded.

All such merchandise must be imported through the: Construction and Metal Works Co, 32 Rewak El Krama, PO Box 2913, Tripoli.

The ministry has also announced in decree 89/1976 that all imports of cloth must come through the General National Co for Yarns and Textiles at Zanzour, PO Box 30186.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 461.

Nigeria

Hotel accommodation. The first West African games will be held in Lagos and Ibadan, Nigeria, from 20 to 28 August 1977. Consequently hotel accommodation in these two cities will be very limited during August.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 3064/3338.

Customs tariff amendments. Legal notice 2 of 1977 published in the Federal Republic of Nigeria *Official Gazette* of 20 January amends with effect from 1 October 1976 the first and second schedule to the Customs Tariff (Consolidation) Decree 1973 as follows:

Schedule 1

11.01 A (2)	In subheading A (2), delete the rate of duty in column 'Fiscal Entry' and substitute 'the tonne N10.00 or 15 per cent'.		
22.02	In subheading B, delete the entries in the columns 'Tariff Description', 'Fiscal Entry' and 'Full' and substitute respectively the following subheadings and rates of duty applicable thereto, that is:		
	B Vitaminised malt extract beverages	10%	Free
	C Other	66⅔%	Free
24.01 A	In subheading A, delete the rate of duty in the column 'Fiscal Entry' and substitute 'the kg N3.25'.		
51.01 B	In subheading B, delete the rate of duty in the column 'Fiscal Entry' and substitute 'the kg 15k or 5 per cent'.		
84.18 D	In subheading D, delete the entries in the columns 'Tariff Description', 'Fiscal Entry' and 'Full' and substitute respectively the following subheadings and rates of duty applicable thereto, that is:		
	D Other:		
	1 Suitable for road motor vehicles	10%	Free
	2 Other	33⅓%	Free

Schedule 2 (Exemptions from import duty)

After paragraph 35, there shall be inserted the following new paragraphs:

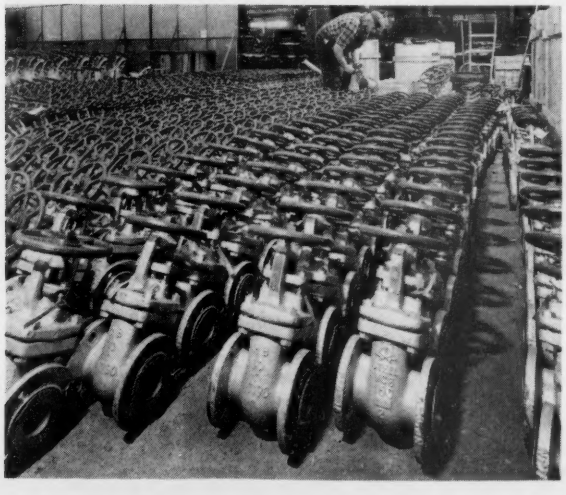
36 Foodstuff of the type ordinarily consumed by Africans, produced in a territory adjoining Nigeria and imported overland from any such territory.

37 Domestic science equipment approved in that behalf by the Commissioner.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 473/471/472/462.

UK valves for US oil industry

A batch of 2-inch wedge gate and other steel valves for the American petroleum industry being checked for despatch at the Wigan factory of Triangle Valve Company (Triangle International Group).



Norway

Food additives. An unofficial translation of the 1977 list of approved food additives is available from OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 458/461.

Panama

Taxes. The British embassy in Panama City reports that stamp taxes are levied on liquor and cigarettes at the following rates:

	Stamp tax
Imported liquor sold in the Republic	
Bottles up to 900cc capacity	US $2.50
Bottles between 900cc and 1,800cc capacity	US $3.20
Bottles over 1,800cc capacity	US $5.40
Bottles imported/local liquor	US $0.02
Cigarettes	
Per carton	US $0.25

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Portugal

Credit arrangements for imports. The Bank of Portugal has introduced new credit arrangements for imports with effect from 1 January. Imports have been broken down into three main categories for credit purposes:

1 Essential goods, for which local banks may provide up to 100 per cent of the fob value, with a limit of 180 days, though importers are urged to obtain foreign credit wherever possible;

2 Non-essential goods, for which no credit either internal or foreign is permitted unless special authority from the Bank of Portugal is obtained;

3 Capital goods

3.1 for re-sale, where local banks may provide credit up to 30 per cent of fob value with a limit of 180 days, but foreign credit must be obtained for orders over Esc 500,000.

3.2 For the importers own fixed investment use, where credit of up to 60 per cent of fob value in the case of light equipment (of a value between Esc 500,000 and Esc 3m) may be obtained locally and up to 20 per cent in the case of heavy equipment (of value over Esc 3m). In these cases at least 40 per cent and 80 per cent respectively of the overall credit must be sought from foreign sources.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 460.

Salted guts: drawback of import duty. Portuguese order 22866 of 4 September 1967 authorised the import under drawback of salted raw or scraped guts and tubular cotton net fabric, for the preparation for export of dried guts covered with cotton net fabric.

The provisions in the law have been extended by order 41/77, published in *Diario da Republica* 22 of 27 January 1977, until 31 December 1977.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 458/461.

Sierra Leone

Customs tariff. Public notice no 1 of 1977 published in the Sierra Leone *Gazette* of 27 January 1977 amends, with effect from that date, part A of the first schedule to the customs tariff:

The tariff numbers affected are as follows:

02.01/04, 02.05, 03.03, 04.05, 04.06, 05.01/15, 07.05, 07.06, 08.01/13, 09.01, 10.02, 10.03, 10.04, 10.07, 11.01/02, 11.03/06, 12.01/02, 12.04/05, 12.08, 12.09/10, 17.01, 17.02/03, 18.06, 19.05, 19.06, 21.05, 21.06, 21.07, 22.04/05, 22.06, 22.07, 22.09, 24.01, 24.02, 27.09/10, 55.07/09, 87.02, 93.07

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 473/471/472/462.

South Africa

Customs tariff changes. The following amendments were published in the South African *Government Gazette* of 28 January 1977:

R86	No 29.14.53: Specific provision, at a rate of duty of 25 per cent is made for epoxy octyl stearate and other epoxidised alkyl esters of stearic, palmitic, oleic, linoleic, linolenic and tall oil fatty acids.
R.87	No 92.12.40: The rate of duty on magnetic tape for sound or similar recording, of a width not exceeding 10mm, put up in cassettes, is amended from 25 per cent to 25 per cent or 18c each.
R.94	No 87.01 and 87.02: Assembled bodies and cabs imported with unassembled

road tractors for semi-trailers, motor cars, passenger vehicles designed to negotiate unusual terrain, minibuses and other specialised passenger vehicles with a seating capacity of less than 16 seats and light goods vehicles, are provided for as specified components.

ANTI-DUMPING DUTIES

R.88 Item 218.03, No 92.12: The provision for an ordinary anti-dumping duty on magnetic tape for sound or similar recording, of a width not exceeding 10mm, put up in cassettes is withdrawn.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 471/472/473/462.

Tariff application. Customs tariff application list 4/77, published in the South African *Government Gazette*, 11 February 1977, contains an application to the Board of Trade and Industries for increase in duty on:

1 Knives with fixed blades of a total length not exceeding 250mm classifiable under tariff subheading 82.09.90.
2 Automatic fire extinguishing sprinkler heads (excluding parts thereof) classifiable under tariff subheading 84.21.40.
3 Windscreen wiper motors for motor vehicles classifiable under tariff subheading 85.09.25.
4 a Scarves, mufflers and stoles classifiable under tariff subheadings 60.05.80 and 61.05.50;
b Woven fabrics with scarf designs (excluding indigo blue discharge print fabrics) of man-made fibres (continuous or discontinuous) classifiable under tariff subheadings 51.04.45 and 56.07.45.

Those British trade organisations thought to be interested in the application are being informed. Any British firm affected which wishes to make representations to the South African Board of Trade and Industries and belongs to a trade organisation should, therefore, first contact its own trade association.

If any firm proposes to make independent representations to the South African authorities and requires further information concerning the application, it should address inquiries to CRE 01-215 5274.

Spain

Cocoa and chocolate: technical and hygiene regulations. The Spanish *State Gazette* of 26 November 1976, published royal decree 2687/1976 announcing amendments to royal decree 3610/1975 of 5 December 1975. Decree 3610/1975 established technical and hygiene regulations for the production, distribution and marketing of cocoa, chocolate, cocoa and chocolate products and substitutes.

English translations of the above decrees are available from OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 462/471/472/473.

Import regulations for coffee beans. The Spanish *State Gazette*, 3 January 1977, published a resolution of the Directorate General of Internal Trade establishing rules on the commercial grading, packaging, distribution and retail price fixing of coffee beans.

An English translation of this resolution is available from OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 462/471/472/473.

Analysing phytosanitary products and fertilisers. The Spanish *State Gazette*, 4 January 1977, published an order dated 30 November 1976, issued by the Presidency of the Government, announcing detailed regulations on the methods of analysing phytosanitary products and fertilisers. This order will be in force 30 days after its publication in the *State Gazette*.

Copies of the Spanish text are available from OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 462/471/472/473.

Thailand

Tariff changes on cinematograph film. The government of Thailand has introduced the royal decree issued under the Revenue Code relating to Business Tax Exemption (No 65) BE 2519 (1976) whereby cinematograph film, exposed and developed or taken in a foreign country, imported into Thailand under CCCN (formerly BTN) 37.07 will be exempt from payment of business tax. This order came into force on 25 December 1976.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 401/468/469.

United States

Escape clause investigation into low carbon ferrochromium. The International Trade Commission has started an investigation to determine whether ferrochromium, not containing over 3 per cent by weight of carbon, is being imported into the United States in such increased quantities as to be a substantial cause of serious injury to the domestic industry. Public hearings will be held: dates to be announced later.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5629.

Architectural glazing materials. The *Federal Register*, 6 January 1977, published a standard issued by the Consumer Product Safety Commission which applies to the safety of architectural glazing materials and should reduce injuries in the event of breakage.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 456/457/7312.

Imports of speciality steels under quota. Further to the notice which appeared in *Trade and Industry* on 11 February 1977, the following table, derived from statistics made available by the US Customs Service, shows the products which are subject to quotas, the US quotas on imports from the EEC for the 12 months 14 June 1976 to 13 June 1977, and US imports of the products concerned from the EEC during this period, as at 4 February 1977.

Pounds weight

Product	US import quotas for 12 months 14 June 1976 to 13 June 1977	US imports during this period as at 4 February 1977
Sheet and strips of stainless steel (item 923.20)	31,600,000	23,447,222
Plates of stainless steel (item 923.21)	5,800,000	Quota filled
Bars and stainless steel (item 923.22)	5,000,000	999,166
Wire rods of stainless steel (item 923.23)	14,800,000	Quota filled
Bearing steel (item 923.25)	7,000,000	2,242,784
Alloy tool steel (item 923.26)	6,800,000	5,994,877

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5629.

Investigation into need to protect domestic watch industry. The International Trade Commission will hold hearings in connection with its investigation on 15 March 1977 in Washington. Requests for appearances at the hearings should be received by the Secretary of the commission, International Trade Commission Building, 701 East Street, NW, Washington DC, 20436, by noon, 10 March 1977.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5629.

Electrical standards for boats: further information. The *Federal Register*, 31 January 1977, published rules by the Coast Guard establishing standards for electrical systems in boats which will take effect on 1 August.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 456/451/7312.

Bubble bath products: labelling. The *Federal Register*, 28 January 1977, published rules proposed by the Food and Drug Administration for a label warning that bubble bath products should only be used as directed. Comments (five copies) should be sent by 29 March 1977 to Food and Drug Administration, Room 4-65, 5,600 Fishers Lane, Rockville MD 20857.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 456/457/7312.

Venezuela

Tariff amendments. Decree 1985 of 28 December 1976 makes the following alterations to chapter 87 of the customs tariff:

1 87.03.89.00 should now be broken into:
87.03.89.01 Vehicles equipped as living accommodation — duty 60 per cent cif
87.03.89.99 Other — duty 1 per cent cif
2 The duty on 'trailers and semi-trailers equipped as living accommodation' falling within tariff item 87.14.02.01 is increased from 42 per cent to 60 per cent *ad valorem* cif
3 As a result of 1, complementary note 2 to chapter 87 now reads as follows:
For the purposes of headings 87.03 and 87.14, the expression 'equipped as living accommodation' shall not include the electro-domestic equipment, fixtures and fittings used in the home, etc, which have not been permanently incorporated into the vehicle and which should be classified within their appropriate headings.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 474/476.

Zambia

Customs tariff amendments. The Customs and Excise (Amendment) Act, 1977 which came into force on 29 January has amended the Zambian customs tariff in parts of headings numbered 17, 22, 24, 27, 55, 60, 61, 73, 74, 76, 79, 85, 87 and 96.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 473.

Overseas trade export services

UK company offers US exhibition service

Companies exhibiting in the United States can now take advantage of a new and comprehensive exhibition service introduced by a British company. Giltspur Expo Industries, part of the international Giltspur group, has reorganised its United States companies into a unified service operation controlled by Giltspur Expo Industries Inc, based in Chicago.

With outlets in Chicago, Pittsburgh, Rochester, Washington, Los Angeles, and San Francisco, the company has three operating divisions – Giltspur Exposervices which offers exhibit handling, furnishing rental and related services; Giltspur Exhibits which provides exhibit design and construction services, and Giltspur Exposystems, which manufactures and markets display and exhibition equipment.

The most recent additions to the group's United States organisation are a facility in Washington DC and a new office, plant and warehouse in Chicago – a short distance from McCormick Place, Chicago's trade show centre.

Giltspur Expo Industries Ltd's head office is in Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, and the company's UK-based subsidiaries include Giltspur Furnishing Hire, which incorporates Bullens Exhibition Hire and Mooredan Hire, and Marler Haley Expo-Systems.

Further information: circle 77

Transcar's trans-shipment to Nigeria operational

Transcar's trans-shipment service to Nigeria via Cotonou in the Republic of Benin is now fully operational.

Transcar's new service is suitable for conventional and containerised traffic and especially for bulky commodities which cannot be shipped direct to Appapa because of congestion. Although Lagos is anticipated as the destination for most of the traffic, Transcar can effect delivery from Cotonou to any major Nigerian destination.

Just back from Nigeria and Benin, Transcar's operations manager Nigel Cutler, reports that facilities at Cotonou are very good with no waiting time, and the port has good handling and storage facilities. He also said that Transcar's exclusive operating partners had representatives at the port and at the border crossing of Idiroko and that a decent road from Cotonou to Lagos allowed a transit time of about five days from ships rail to Lagos.

Goods are shipped solely on Conference vessels of UKWAL, so shippers who are contract signatories will not be in breach of their agreements.

Further information: circle 78

Constantine opens Finnish container service

Finnexpress Oy and Constantine Forwarding implemented on 1 February an exclusive agreement for the handling of freight traffic between the UK and Finland. It is envisaged that the major traffic demand will be exports from the UK, but services will also be provided for traffic from Finland.

Groupage container services are offered together with full-load facilities. Transit time between London and Helsinki, the principal depots involved in the initial

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ENCIRCLE TI 386 ON PAGE 471 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

development stage of the service, will be four to five days.

Finnexpress Oy has its headquarters in Helsinki and many offices and depots throughout the country including Helsinki airport. The three largest depots at Helsinki, Turku and Oulu include customs clearance facilities.

Finnexpress operates its own road haulage fleet and also offers rail services. The company was established in 1956 and is now one of the largest integrated transport organisations in Finland providing a full range of domestic transport services as well as international operations.

Constantine Forwarding also offers a service for transporting full-load containers from the UK or Europe to Iran that avoids delays arising from port congestion that now seems endemic in the Middle East.

Port-to-port transit times are of the order of 21 days. In addition to containers, modular prefabricated structures and self-propelled vehicles can be moved. Door-to-door or port-to-port delivery can be arranged.

The route is by ship direct from the UK (Felixstowe) or Europe (Rotterdam, Hamburg, Bremen) to Bandar Shahpour, the southern entry port for Iran on the Gulf. Berthing facilities for container ships at Bandar Shahpour eliminate delays.

Further information: circle 79

Olsen starts Canary Island container service

Starting on 1 March, and then on alternate Tuesdays, *Cervantes* chartered by Fred. Olsen Lines is scheduled to sail from Felixstowe to Las Palmas and Tenerife. This voyage inaugurates a new container service between the UK and the Canary Islands, whose expanding market is of increasing interest to exporters and importers of a wide variety of products. The ship has a capacity of 100 × 20 ft trailer equivalent units.

The new service will cater for full container load traffic on a three-option basis at rates calculated to give a quay-to-quay, door-to-door or door-to-quay service.

The weekly service from London operated by *Black Watch* and *Blenheim* will continue until the end of the present season. Shippers will be informed of arrangements for the summer period in due course.

An additional service of interest to Scottish exporters is offered by Fred. Olsen Lines. Full container loads or smaller consignments can be transported by the Freightliner service from Coatbridge near Glasgow to Felixstowe quay for shipment aboard the *Cervantes*.

Further information: circle 80

Freepost reader service

For further information on items in this section, circle the corresponding number on the reader services page near the end of the magazine.

Moscow hotel accommodation bought by Lep

Lep Travel, a member of the Lep group of companies, has purchased accommodation at the Hotel Rossia in Moscow for a year from 1 February.

The Hotel Rossia is reputed to be the world's largest hotel and Lep Travel believe that this is the first time that a UK travel agent has purchased accommodation on such a scale at this hotel. The deal gives Lep Travel guaranteed accommodation throughout the year.

Reservations can be made through any one of Lep Travel's regional offices in major business and city centres or alternatively through Lep Travel's Eastern Europe Department.

Further information: circle 81

Ro-ro freight service Ipswich/Rotterdam starts

Subject to final conclusion of agreement with the Ipswich port authorities, North Sea Ferries will be extending the existing ro-ro freight and passenger services from Hull to Rotterdam (Europoort) and Hull to Zeebrugge with a freight-only ro-ro service from Ipswich to Rotterdam (Europoort).

The service will start with a charter vessel but it is hoped to operate owned tonnage as soon as possible.

The service is planned to commence about mid-March with a daily service six days per week in each direction.

The vessel, *Normandica,* will be capable of carrying 75 to 80 × 12m trailer equivalent units. Driver accommodation will be available.

The service will operate from the west bank terminal which has been built by the Ipswich port authorities. The terminal covers an area of nine acres and the labour and equipment will be provided by the Ipswich port authorities in arrangement with North Sea Ferries. There is a rail connection and regular Freightliner services to both London and Birmingham are operated.

Further information: circle 82

New Middle East insurance company

Lowndes Lambert Group, the London insurance brokers, have joined with local business interests to form a new insurance company in Ras Al Khaimah, a state of the United Arab Emirates.

The new company, Al Ahlia Insurance Company Ltd (Ras Al Khaimah), will underwrite all classes of insurance business throughout the UAE. It will have a capital of UA dirhams 4 million.

Further information: circle 83

News of services for exporters

If your company has recently introduced a new service for exporters – in, for example, the packing, forwarding, shipping, airfreighting, banking or translation fields – we would be glad to have details, plus a good black and white photograph where appropriate.

Items for inclusion in our fortnightly 'Export Services' feature should be addressed to the Overseas Editor, 'Trade and Industry', Room 439, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1.

Advertisers who wish to be associated with this feature should contact Mike White at T. G. Scott's on 01-242 6264.

Increased BA services for businessmen

Increase in frequencies and an expansion in TriStar services on European and international routes are announced by British Airways in their summer schedules. Details are as follows:

Route	Alterations
European	
London/Milan	from two to three flights a day
London/Athens	from two to four (TriStars) daily
London/Istanbul	TriStar replacing Trident one day a week
London/Paris	up from six to seven flights a day
London/Nice	five TriStars replacing Tridents on daily service
London/Amsterdam	TriStars operating first flight five days a week
London/Madrid	up from two to three TriStars a week as double daily
London/Oslo	up from seven to 12 per week
London/Budapest	up from three to four per week
London/Munich	up from seven to 12 per week
London/Frankfurt	up from three to four daily
London/Bremen/ Hanover	new non-stop daily services to each destination replacing joint service
London/Bordeaux	up from five to six per week
Edinburgh/Birmingham/ Paris	through plane replacing connection at Birmingham
International	
London/Gulf	TriStars up from seven to 17 a week
London/Singapore	up from six to seven 747s a week
London/Bangkok	up from two to three 747s a week

Further information: circle 84

. . . and flights to Leipzig spring fair

British Airways will again be flying from London's Heathrow Airport to Leipzig in March for the city's spring fair.

From 12 March until 20 March the airline will operate a Trident jet daily in each direction, with connecting flights on most days to and from Aberdeen, Belfast, Birmingham, Dublin, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester and Newcastle.

Further information: circle 85

Overseas trade exhibitions

Offshore and medical equipment woos Japan

John Cole-Morgan, BOTB, reports from Tokyo on the enthusiastic reception given to two UK exhibitions.

Offshore openings

Britain's experience in oil exploration in the North Sea is held in high regard in Japan. The Japanese are particularly impressed by the short time which elapsed between the initial search for oil and its exploitation in commercial quantities.

Japan's own dependence on imported energy was a major factor in the two-year economic recession from which the country is just beginning to recover. This has led to a lot of exploration and development of offshore mineral resources, not only on the Japanese continental shelf – where due to the fracturing effects of earthquakes large finds are thought unlikely – but in many other parts of the world.

Recognising the potential openings for their products and services, 19 British companies including some of the biggest, Tube Investments, GEC Elliott, Marconi and Decca, took part in the British oceanic and offshore equipment exhibition which closed on 5 February at the British Export Marketing Centre in Tokyo. Organised jointly by the British Overseas Trade Board and the Association of British Oceanic Industries Ltd, the event was the first of its kind ever held in Japan. The wide range of technologically-advanced products on display related both to the oceanic and to the offshore oil and gas industries. Underwater welding equipment, seismic data interpretation apparatus, oceanographic measuring, surveying and recording instrumentation were among the many products on display. Representing government-funded research, the National Maritime Institute featured the Christchurch Bay Tower Project a new research facility for the measurement of forces and pressures exerted by wind, waves and currents on offshore structures.

The exhibition was strategically timed to promote British interests in an area which has, in the past, been largely dominated by the Americans and it succeeded in attracting many senior people from Japanese companies. An indication of the interest which the event created was the high attendance at the technical seminars associated with the exhibition. Five of the 14 lectures had to be repeated because the number of applicants could not be accommodated in the marketing centre's 150-seat lecture theatre.

Servicing is a matter which received great attention during the exhibition. The Japanese need convincing that any non-Japanese supplier can provide it, especially when he is selling equipment for use in the remote and inaccessible areas in which oil is often drilled. The fact that a manufacturer already has equipment operating in an area is a significant advantage. Like tends to beget like.

The participating companies represented only a small part of Britain's offshore industry. But the level of interest showed that Japanese offshore operations throughout the world could offer valuable openings for a wide range of British products and services.

Boost for medicine

Japan is becoming one of Britain's major markets for medical equipment. Britain's exports of medical equipment to Japan – Japan is already near to becoming one of the UK's top five medical equipment markets – were given a further fillip on 7 February when 41 manufacturers took part in the largest single-sector exhibition Britain has ever mounted in the market.

Held in the Science Museum in Tokyo, because the British Export Marketing Centre could not accommodate all those who wanted to take part, the all-British medical equipment exhibition and seminar was opened by Eric Deakins, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Health and Social Security. In his opening-ceremony speech, Mr Deakins drew attention to British technological achievements and said that the UK would continue to do whatever it could to support Britain's medical equipment industry and, through exports of equipment and technology, make the benefit of UK research available to everyone.

Sponsored by the British Overseas Trade Board and the British Health-Care Export Council, the exhibition was the fourth to be held in Japan since 1970 when British medical equipment was virtually unknown there. Though it was never crowded, the attendance was higher than in previous years with delegations from Manila, Hong Kong and Korea. The exhibition received a formal welcome to Japan from Dr Taro Takemi, president of the Japan Medical Association, who said that it would contribute to Anglo-Japanese relations in the interest of the peace and welfare of tomorrow's mankind.

Most of the manufacturers taking part in the exhibition already sell at least half of their products abroad. Many of them were already well-established in Japan; eight were visiting the market for the first time. For these companies the aim was to establish agencies and some also made their first sales. However, as all medical equipment needs government approval and Japanese medicine tends to be conservative, getting established can be a slow business. Dent and Hellyer, manufacturers of sterilisers, who were in the market for the first time thought that, having successfully appointed an agent and made their first sales, it would still take them three years to really get into the market. But a potential market of twice the population of Britain with a gross domestic product second only to the United States is a very real incentive, especially in the light of moves by the Japanese to make exporting to them easier and their growing interest in welfare.

Among the newcomers to the market were Jedcom Products Ltd who were exhibiting an artificial larynx which attracted a great deal of interest and Penlon Ltd, manufacturers of anaesthesia equipment, one of the companies that successfully arranged for their machines to be tested in key hospitals.

On the stand of NBA (Controls) at Tokyo offshore show: from left to right Sir Michael Wilford, British ambassador to Japan; Mr N. B. Anscombe, chairman and managing director, NBA (Controls); Mr R. F. Scrivens, sales and commercial director, NBA (Controls); Katsuji Rinoire, president of the Japan Ocean Industries Association; and Michael Armstrong, director-general, Association of British Oceanic Industries.

Repeat success for Paris boat show

Sir Nicholas Henderson, British ambassador to France, (right) with Mr and Mrs Bidal, French agents for Zygal Boats.

From Robert Hyde, British embassy, Paris,

Repeating the success of its recent predecessors, the sixteenth Paris international boat show was held at the Palais de la Défense from 13 to 24 January. The attendance of 349,632 exceeded the 1976 record.

Exhibitors came from 18 foreign countries, and Britain was again represented, as in 1976, by 40 manufacturers, the largest foreign contingent.

A record 31 British companies took part in a joint venture sponsored by the Ship and Boat Builders National Federation and the British Overseas Trade Board. The size of the group was all the more impressive given that the stand space allocated was barely 1,000m², compared with over 1,500m² at the 1975 and 1976 shows.

Among British sailing craft manufacturers at the Paris exhibition, Macwester Marine and Rydgeway Marine were pleased with results (the latter's Express dinghy aroused lively interest), while John Freeman had another excellent show with their inboard motor boats.

A particular draw in the British group was the new Phasta day cruiser, designed by Don Shead, British offshore powerboat champion, and marketed by Yachting Park of Golfe Juan.

The British ambassador, Sir Nicholas Henderson, paid an official visit to the exhibition on 14 January, and Edward Heath, MP, visited the show on 21 January.

In spite of space and position problems, British participation was well up to the standard of previous years and should have helped to consolidate the recent impressive gains in British boat exports to the French market.

Exports of British pleasure boats to France in the first 11 months of 1976 were worth £11.65 million, an increase of almost 90 per cent over the figure of £6.16 million for the corresponding period in 1975. There seems to be potential for continued growth in British exports to this market in the coming year.

Cologne's ISM may lead to increased exports

From H. Mock, British embassy, Bonn, Commercial department.

Cologne was the venue for the seventh international sweets and biscuits fair (ISM) which took place from 31 January to 4 February 1977.

Once again it was evident that ISM has become the centre for international trade in confectionery and biscuits. All major industrial companies from Europe – and for the first time this year from the Argentine and Israel – exhibited their wide range of products, on a gross area of 344,320 sq ft.

As in previous years entrance tickets were sold to large buyers, such as wholesalers, confectionery buyers of large food-buying groups, department stores, chains, cash and carry and supermarkets. The total number of visitors was in the region of 7,000 from over 50 countries with a slight increase in foreign buyers over last year's event.

With 38 firms, the UK supplied the largest foreign contingent of direct foreign exhibitors. They showed their comprehensive range of sugar and chocolate confectionery and biscuits on a joint venture stand which was organised by the British Food Export Council in conjunction with the British Overseas Trade Board. A large number of the participating British firms were in addition represented on their German importers' stands.

The 'British street' as it was soon called by some of the German buyers appeared to be one of the busiest sections in the fair. With one or two exceptions all UK firms were able to book direct orders which in total exceeded £500,000. This figure does not include orders taken for the Federal Republic on the German importers' stands. All British exhibitors said that follow-up business was expected to be high and that their participation in the fair would lead to a substantial increase in their exports world-wide.

Mr J. Grant, export manager of Associated Biscuits, discussing his company's products with United States visitors to ISM Cologne.

UK music in Cannes

From J. J. Patanchon, British consulate-general, Marseilles

Held at the Palais des Festivals, Cannes, between 21 to 27 January, the eleventh international record and music publishing market (Midem) attracted over 1,000 companies and some 4,600 trade visitors, representing 46 countries.

In terms of stand space, the UK was the leading participating nation followed by France and the United States. Ninety-nine British companies and affiliates exhibited; 58 were sponsored by the British Overseas Trade Board in collaboration with the British Phonographic Industry and the Music Publishers' Association.

The British were again successful this year, and among the exhibitors who did well were: Belsize Music who concluded music sub-publishing agreements on a royalty basis totalling $200,000 with South America, Holland, the United States, Belgium, West Germany, Scandinavia, Spain and Italy; Motive Music International sold master productions worth £34,000 to Spain, Italy, West Germany, France and Brazil; Noel Gay renewed a sub-publishing contract with Midland Music of the United States which will yield a minimum of £40,000 to the British firm; Dick James Music sold material to Brazil worth $200,000 and estimated that business generated from Cannes will amount to $1 million.

The next International Record and Music Publishing Market will be held again in Cannes from 20 to 26 January, 1978.

Statistics

The economy: selected indicators

Series are seasonally adjusted except where shown otherwise

	Gross domestic product (average estimate)	Consumers' expenditure	Fixed capital expenditure			Changes in stocks				Balance of payments		
				of which			of which					
			Total	Manufacturing industry	Distributive and service industries excl. shipping	Total	Manufacturing industry	Wholesalers	Retailers	Current balance	Visible balance	Invisible balance
	at 1970 prices		at 1970 prices			at 1970 prices				at current prices		
Base of index Series in Stock level at end-1975	1970	£ million	£ million			£ million 18,209	10,399	1,807	1,976	£ million		
1970	100	31,644	9,453	2,130	1,799	442	325	68	−14	733	−25	758
1971	102	32,505	9,681	1,991	1,930	99	−148	52	22	1,084	280	804
1972	104	34,402	9,870	1,739	2,071	39	−145	48	15	154	−702	856
1973	110	35,935	10,279	1,872	2,362	1,127	404	102	382	−736	−2,334	1,598
1974	110	35,612	10,087	2,024	2,251	604	666	81	−111	−3,323	−5,220	1,897
1975	108	35,374	9,967	1,737	1,964	−699	−392	−111	−23	−1,641	−3,189	1,548
1976		35,571 pe								−1,546	−3,631	2,085
1974 2nd qtr.	111	8,814	2,436	502	562	321	197	43	19	−868	−1,373	505
3rd qtr.	112	8,956	2,476	501	548	330	358	3	−39	−749	−1,235	486
4th qtr.	111	8,989	2,581	511	550	58	133	17	−53	−852	−1,288	436
1975 1st qtr.	110	8,989	2,533	471	497	−126	18	−31	−38	−544	−947	403
2nd qtr.	108	8,851	2,460	444	495	−269	−105	−54	−66	−330	−654	324
3rd qtr.	107	8,776	2,528	416	496	−214	−234	−29	38	−531	−965	434
4th qtr.	108	8,758	2,446	406	476	−90	−70	4	43	−236	−623	387
1976 1st qtr.	109	8,876	2,427	402	460	38	31	23	12	−109	−554	445
2nd qtr.	108	8,812	2,343	408	474	−118	−115	−22	−55	−466	−937	471
3rd qtr.	108	8,928	2,444	411	472	−27	5	3	22	−584	−1,153	569
4th qtr.		8,955 pe								−387	−987	600
% change last 2 qtrs. on prev. 2 qtrs.	0.0	+1.1	−1.8	+1.4	+1.1							
on a year earlier	+1.3	+1.2	−4.0	−4.8	−4.5							

	Industrial production		Personal expenditure		Prices and costs (NOT seasonally adjusted)					Labour (UK)			Visible Trade (Volume)	
	Total all industries	Total manufacturing industries	Retail sales	Cars: new registrations	Retail prices		Wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry		Basic hourly wage rates of manual workers (all industries and services)	Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students		Unfilled vacancies for adults	Export	Import
				monthly averages		% increase on a year earlier	basic materials and fuel used	manufactured products: home sales		mid-month count	% of total employees	mid-month count	On a balance of payments basis	
	at 1970 prices		at 1971 prices										at 1970 prices	
Base of index £m in base year Series in	1970	1970	1971 15,895	thousands	Jan. 1974		1970	1970	July 1972	thousands		thousands	1970 7,907	1970 7,932
1971	100.5	99.7	100.0	108.5	153.4†	9.4	104.6	109.0	88.9	775.8	3.4	130.9	106.7	104.2
1972	102.7	102.4	105.8	138.6	164.3†	7.1	109.2	114.8	101.4	854.9	3.7	147.3	106.6	116.3
1973	110.3	110.0	110.7	137.1	179.4†	9.2	144.5	123.2	115.6	611.0	2 6	307.0	121.8	133.9
1974	106.4	108.2	109.9	102 8	108.5	16.0	215.3	152.0	138.7	599.5ø	2.6ø	302.2ø	130.1	135.2
1975	101.2	101.7	107.9	97.2	134.8	24.2	235.4	188.7	179.8	929.0	3.9	148.2ø	124.9	125.6
1976	102.2	103.3	108.1	104.7			299.0 p	219.6 p					134.8	133.3
1975 2nd qtr.	100.3	100.5	109.2	93	133.6	24.3	225.6	186.3	176.3	847.4	3.6	164.4	122.0	121.2
3rd qtr.	99.6	99.7	105.4	103	139.4	26.6	239.3	193.4	185.5	1,000.0	4.2	133.6	120.6	127.5
4th qtr.	100.4	100.4	105.7	89	144.2	25.3	256.1	199.1	193.8	1,132.1	4.8	113.6	128 9	126.5
1976 1st qtr.	102.1	102.0	107.3	103	149.4	22.5	266.5	206.9	205.5	1,223.2	5.2	115.5	130.3	124.9
2nd qtr.	102.4	103.5	107.6	106	154.9	16.0	292.6	214.4	212.8	1,246.5	5.3	119.6	135.9	134.7
3rd qtr.	101.5	103.4	108.9	97	158.5	13.7	306.8	223.2	218.6	1,307.5	5.5	124.7	133.1	136.6
4th qtr.	102.9	104.2	108.5	113			329.9 p	233.9 p					139.9	137.2
1976 Jan.	101.4	101.8	110.2	105	147.9	23.4	261.5	204.8	202.1	1,210.5	5.1	111.1	130.3	126.0
Feb.	102.7	102.2	106.6	101	149.8	22.9	263.9	207.3	206.4	1,232.4	5.2	113.5	128.4	126.1
Mar.	102.2	102.1	105.4	102	150.6	21.2	274.2	208.6	207.9	1,226.6	5.2	122.0	132.2	122.5
Apr.	102.3	103.2	108.8	116	153.5	18.9	286.3	211.5	210.1	1,233.7	5.2	123.9	134.3	130.6
May	104.5	106.4	106.8	110	155.2	15.4	292.0	214.8	211.7	1,250.0	5.3	120.6	136.0	137.3
June	100.4	100.9	107.3	91	156.0	13.8	299.6	217.0	216.6	1,255.7	5.3	114.3	137.5	136.2
July	101.4	103.6	108.8	91	156.3	12.9	302.0	219.8	219.0	1,294.6	5.5	117.6	129.5	139.2
Aug.	100.6	102.4	108.9	115	158.5	13.8	304.0	223.4	219.1	1,309.4	5.6	127.5	133.8	131.4
Sept.	102.4	104.2	108.9	86	160.6	14.3	314.4	226.3	219.2	1,318.6	5.6	129.0	136.2	139.3
Oct.	102.8	104.8	108.1	109	163.5	14.7	327.7	230.0	219.5	1,305.4	5.5	126.2 p	139.8	140.4
Nov.	103.1	104.5	109.2	119	165.8	15.0	331.8	234.6	220.7	..	..	..	137.7	138.8
Dec.	102.8	103.2	108.3	111	168.0	15.1	330.1 p	237.2 p	221.5 p	1,330.0	5.6 e	..	142.3	132.3
1977 Jan.			108 p	95			338.2 p	244.9 p		1,345.3	5.7 p	..	140.0 p	153.7 p
% change latest 3 months on prev. 3 months	+1.4	+0.7	−0.2	+4.8	+4.6		+5.7	+5.4	+0.7	+1.5			+2½	+3½
on a year earlier	+2.5	+3.8	+1.2	+14.8	+14.9		+28.6	+18.4	+18.8	+13.5			+8¾	+12½

p Provisional pe Preliminary estimate † Base of index Jan. 1962 = 100 .. not available ø Average of 11 months e estimate

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Retailers' stocks in December

Based on the non-seasonally adjusted data of table 1, the level of stocks at book value in December was 14 per cent higher than a year earlier; at constant prices it was unchanged.

The estimate of the value of the physical change in retailers' stocks at 1970 prices and seasonally adjusted suggests a fall in December following increases in September and October and little change in November. Over the recent period, the volume of retail sales has changed relatively little.

Notes

1 The book value of retailers' stocks in the United Kingdom at end of December 1971 was £1,886 million.

2 With the introduction of VAT, the book values are being valued exclusive of this tax. There is, therefore, a discontinuity in the series in 1973 between March and April. For the year up to March, 1974, the usual comparisons with a year earlier for the book value series have not been given. From April, 1974, the basis of valuation is comparable with that of a year earlier and the percentages changes have been re-introduced. The estimates at constant prices take account of this method of valuation, and are on a consistent basis throughout.

3 For the estimates at constant prices, it should be borne in mind that, when price increases are large, the various problems associated with revaluation of the value series to constant prices become more acute. Thus, the relative accuracy with which constant price changes have been measured is likely to have been reduced in recent periods.

4 The statistics given in table 2 were introduced in an article in the issue of 28 March 1975.

5 Long-run series back to 1966 for both table 1 and table 2 were included in the article in the issue of 17 September 1976.

Inquiries: 01-215 3220.

TABLE 1 Level of retailers' stocks

Index numbers (end 1971 = 100) *and percentage increase on a year earlier* — At cost at end of month

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
At book values:												
1971	89	91	94	95	95	97	95	95	98	106	110	100
1972	96	99	101	102	102	105	102	102	104	113	119	106
1973	103	107	112	112	112	117	116	118	123	134	143	132
1974	128	129	135	139	144	145	144	143	149	161	171	154
1975	148	151	158	154	159	161	160	160	170	187	201	181
1976	172	174	184	185	184	184	180	181	193	215	230	207
1972	8	8	8	7	8	8	7	8	7	7	8	6
1973	8	8	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1974	—	—	—	24	28	24	24	21	21	20	19	17
1975	15	17	17	11	11	11	11	12	15	16	18	18
1976	16	15	17	20	16	14	13	13	14	15	14	14
At constant (1970) prices:												
1971	94	96	98	98	97	99	96	96	98	106	111	100
1972	95	97	100	100	100	102	99	99	101	108	114	101
1973	98	101	105	110	114	117	115	115	119	127	135	123
1974	118	117	120	121	122	121	119	117	119	126	132	117
1975	110	109	113	108	109	110	107	106	112	122	129	115
1976	108	109	114	113	112	112	108	108	113	124	130	115
1972	1	2	2	2	3	4	3	4	2	2	3	1
1973	3	4	5	10	13	15	16	16	18	18	19	22
1974	21	16	14	9	8	3	3	1	−1	−1	−2	−5
1975	−7	−6	−6	−11	−11	−10	−10	−9	−6	−4	−2	−1
1976	−1	−1	1	5	2	2	1	1	2	2	1	—

TABLE 2 Value of physical increase of retailers' stocks at 1970 prices

Seasonally adjusted — £ million

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
1971	−11	3	−8	2	−12	17	−7	16	5	24	−14	7
1972	−7	9	−1	13	6	21	−16	25	−22	9	−6	−16
1973	34	25	23	106	57	42	15	21	12	3	11	33
1974	12	−50	—	33	25	−39	10	−24	−25	−4	−19	−30
1975	−19	−30	11	−76	20	−10	5	−6	39	41	15	−13
1976	−24	−10	46	−5	−25	−25	−14	5	31	52	−2	−28

See note 2.

Retail sales – provisional estimate for January

Volume

The *provisional* estimate of the seasonally adjusted index of the volume of retail sales in January is 108 (1971 = 100), about the same as in December and as the average level throughout the year 1976. The figures continue to suggest that total sales have generally changed little in recent months. The volume of trade in the three months November to January was close to that in the previous three months.

Value

Based on non-seasonally adjusted data, the value of total retail sales in January was 14 per cent higher than in January 1976.

	Retail sales: volume seasonally adjusted index (1971 = 100)		Retail sales: value not seasonally adjusted – percentage change compared with a year earlier
1975	1st quarter	111.1	1975 1st quarter +22
	2nd quarter	109.2	2nd quarter +24
	3rd quarter	105.4	3rd quarter +18
	4th quarter	105.7	4th quarter +15
1976	1st quarter	107.3	1976 1st quarter +15
	2nd quarter	107.6	2nd quarter +12
	3rd quarter	108.9	3rd quarter +15
	4th quarter	108.5	4th quarter +16
1975	October	105.2	1975 October +15
	November	104.9	November +16
	December	106.6	December +15
1976	January	110.2	1976 January +16
1976	October	108.1	1976 October +16
	November	109.2	November +17
	December	108.3	December +16
1977	January	108 (prov)	1977 January +14 (prov)

Notes

The volume index is given to the nearest half per cent. The percentage increase in value compared with a year earlier is given to the nearest whole number.

A detailed note on the method of computation of the provisional estimate was published in *Trade and Industry*, 21 February 1974.

Estimates are based on early returns to the monthly inquiry. These returns now cover approaching one half, by turnover, of information available at the final stage. Past evidence suggests that the average error (ignoring sign) in the provisional estimates will be about 0.5 per cent. However, as with all estimates based on partial data, caution must be exercised in interpreting a single month's figure.

When using the volume figures, it should be borne in mind that, when price increases are large, the various problems associated with revaluation of the value series to constant prices become more acute. Thus the relative accuracy with which volume changes have been measured is likely to have been reduced in recent periods.

The value estimates are compiled inclusive of VAT, and will, therefore, reflect changes in the rates of VAT. The volume estimates, however, are not affected by these changes since the retail price indices used to 'deflate' the value data are themselves inclusive of VAT.

The seasonally adjusted series include, where appropriate, adjustments to make allowance for the inclusion of an extra week in the January 1975 trading period. No adjustments are made to the non-seasonally adjusted data.

The provisional figures are made available by press notice in advance of this article. The final figures for January will be published in a press notice on Monday, 7 March 1977.

Inquiries: 01-215 3705.

A library for exporters

Foreign trade statistics and other economic statistics from almost every country in the world are available for reference in the Statistics and Market Intelligence Library at Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU. A modern well-equipped library of over 85,000 volumes, it has a reading room for visitors and provides a document-copying service. There are trade directories covering 150 countries, and an expanding collection of trade catalogues of overseas manufacturers. The library opens from 9 to 5.30, Mondays to Fridays (Tel. 01-248 5757 ext. 368 or Telex No. 886143).

Wholesale price indices in January

Output prices

The provisional price index for the home sales of manufactured products increased by 3¼ per cent in January to 244.9 (1970 = 100).

More than half of this increase, which equalled the previously highest figure in January 1975, was caused by three special factors. The annual bunching of price increases at the start of the year, the increased duty on alcoholic drinks and tobacco announced in the December Budget and the sharp rise in food prices each contributed more than ½ per cent.

The increase of 2½ per cent in the price index for manufactured products other than food, drink and tobacco reflected the established annual pattern of price changes. The only sectors of industry to show price rises of less than 2 per cent were clothing and footwear and the bricks and cement industries.

Further price rises for building joinery and domestic furniture were largely responsible for the increase of 3 per cent in the index for the timber industries. Higher prices for most products of the paper industries contributed to a similar rise in the index for this sector of industry.

The annual bunching of price increases was particularly evident in the indices for the engineering and allied industries sectors. In general these showed increases of 2¼ or 2½ per cent. Price rises for electrical and other machinery, vehicles, metal windows and domestic gas appliances made the most significant contributions.

Higher prices for a range of products of the textile industries, particularly hosiery and carpets and rugs were responsible for an increase of 2¾ per cent in the index for this sector.

Higher prices for milk and chocolate confectionery were responsible for half of the rise of 3½ per cent in the index for the food manufacturing industries.

The change in the index for all manufactured products measured over a 12-month period rose sharply from 17¾ per cent in December to 19½ per cent in January.

Input prices

The provisional price index for materials and fuel purchased by manufacturing industry rose by 2½ per cent to 338.2.

Three-quarters of the increase of 2½ per cent in the index of *materials* purchased by manufacturing industry other than the food, drink and tobacco industries was caused by the higher dollar price of crude oil, effective from 1 January, partly offset by the improvement of the exchange rate of sterling. Lower prices for imported steel, imported chemicals and woodpulp limited the effect of price rises for a range of other imported commodities, particularly paper and paper board, newsprint, aluminium and copper.

Further information

Correspondence about wholesale price index numbers should be addressed to Statistics Division 4, Room 610, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3DB. Telephone inquiries for price index numbers should be made to 01-215 3544 (Tables 1 and 2 indices), 3549 (engineering), 5216 (chemicals, steel, building materials, etc.), 3548 (textiles, clothing, timber, paper, etc.), 3173 (imported commodities).

Price increases for many metals including aluminium, copper, tin and lead were mainly responsible for the increase of 4¾ per cent in the index for the non-ferrous metals industry.

Lower prices for woodpulp partly offset higher prices of imported paper and paperboard limiting the increase in the index for the paper industries to 2 per cent. The indices for the bricks and cement industries and pottery and glass industries rose by 2½ per cent and 2¼ per cent, respectively, with price increases for petroleum products making the most significant contribution.

The index for the chemicals and allied industries rose by 1¾ per cent. Price rises for crude oil and petroleum products were partly offset by lower prices for phosphate rock and a range of imported chemicals.

Continued price falls for steel scrap limited the increase in the index for the steel industries partly caused by higher prices for liquid fuel and tin, to ¾ per cent.

The rise of only ¼ per cent in the index for the textile industries was mainly caused by price increases for raw wool and, to a lesser extent, liquid fuel, mainly offset by further reductions in the price of raw cotton.

The increase of 2¾ per cent in the index of *materials* purchased by the food manufacturing industries was mainly due to higher prices for milk. Lower prices for imported wheat largely offset higher prices for other imported materials, particularly tea and oilcake.

The indices for most other sectors of industry rose between 1 and 2 per cent, reflecting price rises for both imported and home-produced materials.

(*Tables on following pages*)

TABLE 1 Price index numbers of materials purchased

1970 = 100

1968 SIC		1975	1976											1977
		4th qtr	1st qtr	2nd qtr	3rd qtr	4th qtr p	Jan	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec p	Jan p
Orders III to XIX	Materials and fuel purchased by manufacturing industry:	256.1	266.5	292.6	306.8	329.9	261.5	299.6	302.0	304.0	314.4	327.7	331.8	330.1	338.2
	Materials†	261.4	272.5	299.2	314.6	339.7	267.2	306.8	309.3	311.5	323.0	337.6	341.8	339.7	348.4
	Coal (except for carbonising), gas and electricity	205.5	210.1	230.6	232.0	236.3	206.9	230.9	232.0	232.0	232.0	233.3	236.6	238.9	241.0
Orders IV to XIX	Materials and fuel purchased by manufacturing industry, other than food, drink and tobacco manufacturing industries	269.7	280.3	313.5	328.3	348.3	273.8	322.1	324.6	325.9	334.3	348.3	350.5	346.2	354.4
	Materials†	278.9	290.3	325.3	342.0	364.3	283.3	335.1	337.9	339.3	348.9	364.6	366.7	361.5	370.6
Order III	Materials and fuel purchased by the food, drink and tobacco manufacturing industries	224.8	235.4	246.8	257.3	283.0	233.4	249.1	251.4	255.0	265.6	274.4	285.2	289.3	296.8
	Materials and fuels purchased by selected broad sectors of industry														
211 to 229	Food manufacturing industries	227.0	237.0	246.5	258.2	288.7	235.3	249.6	251.7	253.9	268.9	281.4	290.3	294.4	302.2
	Materials†	227.3	237.3	246.5	258.3	289.5	235.6	249.6	251.7	253.8	269.5	282.3	291.0	295.1	303.1
	Fuel	217.8	230.9	248.0	254.0	268.0	228.9	248.7	251.7	255.1	255.1	256.7	271.8	275.4	281.4
211 to 229 (excluding MLH 219)	Food manufacturing industries (excluding animal and poultry foods)	225.6	235.8	243.3	254.3	284.9	234.3	245.8	247.5	250.2	265.1	277.3	286.8	290.6	299.0
Order V	Chemicals and allied industries	250.8	258.7	276.5	289.4	310.4	255.5	280.9	286.0	288.2	295.1	306.4	312.5	312.2	317.3
311 and 312	Steel industries	237.3	247.0	281.6	291.3	298.7	241.2	283.6	287.3	292.4	294.3	297.5	299.6 p	298.9	301.4
321 to 323	Non-ferrous metals industry	149.1	157.3	189.3	202.0	205.4	152.3	194.9	203.3	200.2	202.6	203.6	207.5	205.2	215.0
Order VII (excluding MLH 342)	Mechanical engineering industries	217.2	226.6	245.1	260.6	274.9	223.2	249.4	257.7	260.9	263.2	271.9	275.5	277.3	281.3
Order IX	Electrical engineering industries	187.0	196.4	218.5	231.4	238.1	192.5	224.1	230.2	231.4	232.7	236.2	238.8	239.4	244.4
Order X	Shipbuilding and marine engineering industries	213.8	222.3	238.5	253.0	266.2	218.8	241.5	249.8	253.7	255.6	263.3	266.7	268.7	273.8
Order XII	Metal goods industries	227.3	234.4	258.3	272.3	291.5	229.9	263.3	269.3	272.0	275.5	287.7	293.3	293.4	295.6
Order XIII	Textile industries	214.9	232.4	255.9	275.1	298.8	227.8	264.3	270.3	273.5	281.4	296.9	301.2	298.3	299.0
Order XV	Clothing and footwear industries	189.4	197.4	209.1	219.1	231.0	194.4	212.6	216.4	218.1	222.9	228.1	232.0	232.8	238.6
461, 464 and 469	Bricks, cement, etc, industries	231.7	245.1	259.0	271.1	282.2	240.7	262.9	267.7	271.8	273.9	276.6	283.5	286.5	293.1
462 and 463	Pottery and glass industries	226.3	237.8	248.5	259.6	274.6	235.1	250.5	256.0	259.8	262.9	267.1	276.4	280.2	285.5
Order XVII	Timber industries	220.2	235.2	259.7	285.9	307.2	229.0	271.8	279.0	287.3	291.3	300.5	308.4	312.7	319.2
481 to 484	Paper industries	248.9	253.5	273.7	286.4	304.7	250.7	279.1	281.8	284.2	292.1	302.6	306.5	304.9	309.1
Order XX	Construction materials	215.4	227.2	242.5	258.2	271.5	222.9	248.4	253.9	259.3	261.4	267.8	272.1	274.7	279.7
Part of Order XX	House building materials	217.2	229.2	244.7	261.6	276.5	224.8	250.9	256.9	262.7	265.2	272.6	277.0	280.0	283.5

† Includes crude oil and coal for carbonising.

TABLE 1(a) Price index numbers of materials and fuel purchased by selected sectors of industry

1970 = 100

1968 SIC		1975	1976											1977
		4th qtr	1st qtr	2nd qtr	3rd qtr	4th qtr p	Jan	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec p	Jan p
361	Electrical machinery industry	201.5	211.5	230.9	245.2	256.2	207.9	236.0	242.8	245.6	247.3	253.9	256.7	258.0	261.3
362	Insulated wires and cables industry	143.4	152 1	179.3	191.4	187.0	147.5	186.6	193.4	191.5	189.4	187.3	187.6	186.0	191.7
364	Radio and electronic components industry	201.8	209.7	224.6	237.1	248.3	206.7	228.8	233.9	237.3	240.2	245.2	249.2	250.8	255.6
368	Domestic appliances industry	195.8	205.3	222.3	234.4	246.5	201.8	227.4	231.7	234.4	237.1	243.4	246.9	249.1	252.1
369	Electrical goods industries n.e.s.	192.6	200.7	219.6	231.6	240.9	197.1	224.4	229.5	231.3	233.9	238.7	241.3	242.6	248.8
381	Motor vehicle industry	219.1	229.6	247.4	261.4	286.3	225.6	252.9	257.7	261.8	265.6	273.3	277.0	278.6	282.3
411	Man-made fibres industry	221.7	231.1	248.1	259.0	285.9	226.1	252.5	254.3	258.1	264.5	273.7	277.1	276.9	277.5
414	Woollen and worsted industry	230.8	255.2	282.9	302.2	338.4	249.9	291.3	293.1	299.7	313.8	337.9	340.6	336.7	340.8
422/1	Household textiles and handkerchiefs industry	198.6	210.1	224.2	243.3	257.5	207.8	232.6	238.6	242.3	248.9	254.3	258.1	260.1	268.1
450	Footwear industry	189.1	198.3	214.7	222.9	231.6	194.6	218.3	220.1	222.0	226.6	229.7	232.2	232.8	237.9
481	Paper and board making industry	258.2	262.8	288.5	299.3	318.4	259.6	295.9	295.5	297.7	304.7	317.1	320.2	317.8	314.9

p = provisional.

TABLE 2 Price index numbers of output (home sales)

1970 = 100

1968 SIC		1975	1976												1977
		4th qtr	1st qtr	2nd qtr	3rd qtr	4th qtr p	Jan	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec p	Jan p
Order III to XIX	Output of manufactured products	199.1	206.9	214.4	223.2	233.9	204.8	217.0	219.8	223.4	226.3	230.0	234.6	237.2	244.9
Orders IV to XIX	Products of manufacturing industry other than food, drink and tobacco manufacturing industries	205.4	214.5	222.0	230.8	241.2	211.9	224.2	227.5	231.4	233.6	237.0	242.0	244.6	250.8
	Output of selected broad sectors of industry														
211 to 229	Food manufacturing industries	208.0	215.2	222.2	233.8	252.2	213.6	224.8	227.9	232.8	240.7	248.4	252.5	255.8	264.5
211 to 229 (excluding MLH 219)	Food manufacturing industries (excluding animal and poultry foods)	208.2	215.5	220.5	230.2	247.3	214.0	222.3	224.4	228.9	237.2	244.1	247.5	250.4	260.1
Order V	Chemicals and allied industries	198.2	206.5	213.7	221.0	228.8	203.8	216.0	218.4	221.3	223.4	226.1	228.8	231.5	237.6
Order VI	Metal manufacturing	209.5	217.7	240.6	259.1	271.8	214.2	246.8	256.8	259.6	261.3	269.9	272.4	273.2	277.9
311 and 312	Steel industries	231.0	237.3	260.3	281.8	300.2	234.4	266.4	278.4	283.3	283.8	298.1	301.2	301.4	306.3
Orders VII to XII	Engineering and allied industries	201.8	209.9	217.7	226.6	236.4	207.0	220.2	223.2	227.1	229.4	232.8	237.0	239.3	245.0
Order VII (excluding MLH 342)	Mechanical engineering	209.3	218.6	226.1	235.4	244.6	216.0	228.4	233.0	235.1	238.0	241.8	244.7	247.2	252.5
Order VIII	Instrument engineering	176.2	184.9	190.9	196.7	203.7	183.6	191.5	193.7	197.0	199.4	201.0	203.5	206.6	210.3
Order IX	Electrical engineering	183.6	191.5	199.1 r	205.8 r	214.5	188.7	201.5 r	203.6 r	205.5 r	208.3 r	212.6	214.8 p	216.0	220.8
Order XI	Vehicles	219.9	227.7	236.8	247.6	260.2	223.5	240.0	241.7	249.4	251.7	253.0	262.1	265.6	271.9
Order XII	Metal goods industries n.e.s.	207.8	215.7	227.1	238.3	253.6	213.4	230.4	235.4	238.4	241.2	249.6	255.0	256.1	262.7
Order XIII	Textile industries	185.1	193.0	201.1	209.6	220.0	190.5	204.1	207.2	209.3	212.2	217.2	220.2	222.5	228.7
Order XV	Clothing and footwear	170.7	176.6	180.3	186.4	193.7	175.4	181.3	184.3	185.8	189.0	192.2	194.2	194.8	197.2
441/449	Made-up clothing	167.1	172.6	175.9	180.2	188.5	171.3	176.3	178.3	179.3	183.0	187.1	188.8	189.6	190.7
461, 464 and 469	Bricks, cement, etc, industries	218.8	231.5	243.1	254.3	265.7	227.0	246.6	250.6	255.0	257.2	261.2	265.7	270.1	273.4
462 and 463	Pottery and glass industries	210.2	215.4	223.2	230.2	241.5	213.0	225.0	227.6	230.5	232.6	239.7	241.8	243.0	246.1
Order XVII	Timber industries	210.9	218.7	225.5	235.7	248.5	216.1	228.1	231.2	236.5	239.3	244.0	247.8	253.7	261.0
481 to 484	Paper industries	233.8	235.4	242.4	254.6	266.0	234.9	244.6	248.8	254.1	260.9	262.2	265.7	270.1	278.3
Order XX	New construction‡	236	238	246	263 p			246			263 p				

‡ Index of building costs relate to average for the quarter (*Department of Environment*). r = revisions.

Revisions to Table 2

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
—	—	—	196.8	198.9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1976

Notes on wholesale price indices

1 Detailed notes on index numbers of wholesale prices were last shown in *Trade and Industry* of 9 April 1976.

2 The index numbers are constructed on a net sector basis. This is to say, the price movements used to compile the index for a particular sector of industry are only those relating to transactions between the sector and other sectors. Transactions between undertakings in the same sector are excluded. Thus index numbers for the whole of manufacturing industry are not weighted averages of sector index numbers.

3 All the index numbers are compiled exclusive of value added tax and (before its abolition) of purchase tax. Revenue duties (on cigarettes and manufactured tobacco, alcoholic liquor, matches and mechanical lighters) are included. The duty on hydrocarbon oils is excluded from output price series that cover these products (unless specifically noted to the contrary) but is included in series for materials and fuel purchased by sectors of industry.

4 Firm and provisional indices, at all levels of aggregation, include imputation for items for which there is no current price information. Additional provisional figures will be published for those indices where there are insufficient returns to allow accurate imputation.

5 Revisions to firm index numbers will only be made if they are significant. These revisions will be notified when the series are next published.

TABLE 3(a) Commodities produced in the United Kingdom (as published monthly)

1970 = 100

1968 SIC		1976 Jan.	1976 Oct.	1976 Nov.	1976 Dec. p	1977 Jan. p
101	Coal	307.4	356.2	356.1	356.1	356.1
102/1	Coated limestone roadstone	290.5	323.1	329.6	343.2	350.2
	Aggregates for concrete	198.0	220.0	220.6	225.9	228.4
103	Sand and gravel – ex pit or works	205.9	251.0	254.8	254.8	258.8
240	Tobacco	155.9	169.1	173.1	175.1	190.6
261	Foundry coke	348.5	404.2	404.2	404.2	404.2
262	Motor spirit, two star (including duty) ø	183.5	210.4	220.2	220.4	221.4
	Medium fuel oil (950 secs – including duty) ø	346.4	378.1	433.2	443.6	462.9
	Derv fuel (including duty) ø	167.9	197.7	208.7	211.3	217.0
263	Lubricating oils and greases	237.6	255.5	256.8	255.6	258.2
271	General chemicals	220.4	259.4	263.4	264.5	268.5
271/1	Inorganic chemicals	221.8	251.0	253.7	253.6	258.9
271/2	Organic chemicals	239.8	289.3	293.1	294.2	297.5
272	Pharmaceutical chemicals	185.6	213.3	217.8	221.7	222.9
	Pharmaceutical preparations	177.2	202.1	203.1	205.0	207.6
273	Toilet preparations	180.9	195.2	198.0	200.1	207.1
274	Paint	218.5	227.0	228.9	235.8	238.9
276/1	Synthetic resins and plastics materials	189.6	223.4	226.1	227.2	233.1
	Polyolefin moulding materials	197.6	243.9	245.4	246.1	246.1
	Polyvinyl chlorides	206.0	257.3	260.4	262.7	262.7
279/3	Explosives, fireworks, etc.	239.5	266.0	268.2	268.2	272.0
311/2	Uncoated steel sheets (other than stainless and electrical sheets)	202.1	298.1	299.7	299.7	299.7
	Tinplate	217.6	271.9	274.0	274.0	274.0
	Finished steel (other than sheets, tinplates, forgings and castings)	240.1	304.2	306.4	306.4	313.2
	Steel plates (non-alloy)	254.3	302.3	303.5	303.5	303.5
	Steel sheet piling	241.8	309.9	309.9	309.9	330.7
	Heavy steel bars and sections	242.1	298.5	298.5	298.5	331.3
	Light re-rolled bars and sections	236.4	331.3	333.6	333.6	333.6
	Finished stainless steels	184.8	229.7	232.0	232.0	241.5
	Steel castings	229.4	268.2	271.1	272.7	279.2
	Forgings (other than drop forgings)	287.7	366.4	377.2	377.4	379.4
312	Steel tubes – other than electric conduit tubes	259.9	302.4	311.8	312.2	312.2
313/3 and 313/4	Iron castings	253.7	284.8	285.3	291.3	296.7
313/4	Cast and spun iron pipes and fittings	271.9	308.4	308.4	308.4	310.3
321	Wrought aluminium	190.7	249.1	253.8	257.8	259.7
	Aluminium: Rolled	180.8	248.7	255.0	259.5	261.2
	Extruded and drawn aluminium products – other than wire	188.1	258.7	265.2	269.8	271.6
	Aluminium: Castings	205.0	251.5	254.3	257.4	260.6
	Aluminium: Forgings	179.8	224.1	224.1	231.0	231.0
322	Brass ingots	121.9	162.8	164.0	162.0	162.0
331	Agricultural machinery	221.1	246.1	250.2 p	252.5	258.8
331/1	Soil preparation and cultivating machinery	221.6	253.0	260.1	261.1	267.2 e
331/3	Harvesting, threshing, feed processing machinery, etc.	227.6	248.7	252.1 p	254.8	260.4 e
	Pick-up balers	232.3	279.4	279.4	279.4	286.2 e
	Hay and silage making machinery	187.5	198.2	212.0	218.6	229.0 e
	Grinding mills and meal mixers	215.9	241.1	247.2	259.9	259.9 e
331/5	Milking machines	205.4	233.2	236.9	236.9	250.8 e
	Other agricultural machinery (spraying machinery, general purpose elevators and conveyors, etc.)	203.5	244.0	246.5	252.0	254.7 e
332	Metal-working machine tools	235.9	261.2	265.4 p	266.0	273.0 e
332/1	Metal cutting machine tools	240.7	264.1	267.1 p	267.7	276.4 e
332/2	Metal forming machine tools	226.8	256.2	256.0	256.1	263.0 e
333	Pumps, valves, compressors, fluid power equipment	215.6	234.4	237.1 p	238.6	241.8
333/1	Pumps	200.8	221.9	222.4 p	223.4	228.2
	Kerbside petrol and oil measuring pumps	190.9	208.4	208.4	208.4	221.3 e
	Industrial pumps	201.5	222.8	223.3 p	224.3	228.6 e
	Centrifugal, turbine and axial flow pumps	203.2	226.8	227.6 p	229.2	232.8 e
333/2	Industrial valves	246.2	259.1	263.8	264.7	267.8 e
	Iron valves	240.4	262.8	268.7	271.2	276.7 e
	Steel valves	271.3	269.2	270.0	270.7	274.3 e
	Non-ferrous valves	219.0	242.6	251.3	251.3	251.3 e
333/3	Air and gas compressors	214.5	242.8	243.7	245.4	249.4 e
333/4	Oil/hydraulic fluid power equipment	197.9	216.7	221.2 p	224.6	227.1 e
333/5	Pneumatic fluid power and control equipment	171.4	193.5	193.5	193.5	193.5 e
334	Stationary internal combustion engines and steam turbines	210.5	235.6	246.8 p	247.6	249.6
336	Construction and earth-moving equipment	213.7	249.1	251.9	254.8	259.4
336/1	Contractors' plant and parts	212.8	247.9	250.9	253.7	258.3 e
	Excavators, trenchers, diggers, etc.	222.6	275.5	275.5	279.7	286 7 e
	Concrete mixers	215.3	239.8	239.8	240.7	245.6 e
	Dumpers	215.1	235.4	237.0	240.5	243.8 e
	Crawler tractors	191.8	224.2	233.0	234.6	237.2 e
336/2	Crushing and screening plant and parts	226.2	257.0	257.0	260.8	265.5 e
337	Mechanical handling equipment	209.3	232.4	233.9 p	238.3	245.1
337/2	Cranes	205.6	234.7	234.7	234.7	245.3
337/4	Lifting and winding devices	210.7	240.6	241.3 p	241.3	248.0
337/5	Powered industrial trucks and tractors	221.1	243.6	246.6 p	257.7	265.1
339/1	Mining machinery	192.5	213.3	213.5 p	216.3	222.2 e
339/3	Commercial and industrial refrigeration machinery	205.2	228.9	248.7 p	248.7	256.9
339/5	Scales and weighing machinery	231.5	253.4	253.4	253.4	258.3 e
339/6	Portable power tools	192.8	221.2	221.7	223.1	230.1 e
339/7	Food and drink processing machinery	200.9	231.3	237.3 e	237.6	241.6
339/8	Bottle washing, bottling, packaging, labelling and canning machinery	204.3	230.9	231.6	232.6	242.6
339/9	Miscellaneous machinery	209.4	236.2 p	238.3 p	240.7	247.8 e
352	Clocks, watches and time recorders	203.6	219.3	219.3 p	220.5	226.5

TABLE 3(a) *(continued)*

1968 SIC		1976 Jan.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec. p	1977 Jan. p
354	Scientific and industrial instruments and systems	184.1	200.6	203.2	207.2	210.7 e
354/1	Microscopes	175.4	193.9	193.9	193.9	198.2 e
354/2	Process measuring and control instruments	191.4	207.2	212.8	218.4	221.4 e
	Analytical instruments	174.2	188.1	188.2	188.1	197.9 e
	Spectrophotometers and absorptiometers	149.7	157.5	157 5	157.5	168.2 e
	Electrical testing, measuring and control instruments	180.5	192.7	192.7	198.5	200.8 e
365	Broadcast receiving and sound reproduction equipment	144.5	154.5	155.7 p	155.9	157.7 e
365/1	Gramophone records and prerecorded tapes	177.0	195.8	196.9	197.0	197.0 e
	Gramophone records	182.6	202.0	203.3	203.5	203.5 e
	Pre-recorded tapes – cassettes	180.2	199.3	199.7	199.7	199.7 e
	Pre-recorded tapes – cartridges	153.4	169.9	170.1	170.1	170.1 e
365/2	Other broadcast receiving and sound reproduction equipment	141.0	149.9	151.1 p	151.4	153.4 e
	Domestic television receivers – colour†	129.5	139.1	139.4	140.0	142.0 e
	Domestic television receivers – monochrome†	145.9	156.3	157.4	157.4	159.6 e
	Domestic television receivers†	142.2	152.5	153.4	153.6	155.8 e
	Record players and tape recorders	139.2	147.5	147.5 p	147.9	149.8 e
368	Domestic electrical appliances	170.6	190.1	195.0	195.6	198.0
368/1	Domestic electrical cooking appliances	177.0	198.2	202.8	202.8	206.1 e
	Electric cookers	174.3	195.5	201.7	201.7	204.7 e
368/3	Domestic electrical heating appliances	182.6	205.2	210.5	212.2	215.4 e
	Electric fires	173.5	197.4	211.0	212.2	218.1 e
	Water heaters, wash boilers, etc	226.8	263.2	263.2	263.2	265.7 e
	Electric storage heaters and other space heating apparatus	181.6	196.9	198.2	201.6	202.1 e
368/4	Electric vacuum cleaners and polishers	172.6	196.1	206.4	206.4	209.4 e
	Domestic electric flat irons	205.4	218.3	225.1	225.1	227.3 e
368/6	Domestic refrigerators, gas and electric	166.6	181.7	181.9	184.1	187.4 e
	Domestic electric refrigerators	169.6	187.6	188.0	191.0	193.3 e
369/2 and 369/3	Batteries and accumulators	200.0	248.2	248.2	248.2	249.3 e
369/4	Electric lamps and fluorescent tubes	181.0	199.1	201.8	201.8	201.8 e
369/5	Installation materials, domestic	188.1	225.1	228.9	229.2	230.4
380	Wheeled tractors	258.4	304.6	312.8	320.3	325.6
381/1	Passenger cars	216.6	243.7	254.5	258.0	262.4 e
381/1	Passenger cars‡	197.5	222.2	232.1	235.2	239.2 e
381/2	Commercial and public service vehicles	235.0	266.7	278.5	281.9	288.7 e
	Commercial vehicles not exceeding 1½ tons gross vehicle weight	238.2	268.2	280.3	282.7	282.7 e
	Commercial vehicles and chassis over 1½ tons gross vehicle weight	233.7	267.0	276.9	282.3	291.5 e
381/3	Public service vehicles	237.1	265.4	272.2	275.6	284.4 e
390	Engineers' cutting tools	183.4	212.4	215.9	218.2	223.4
	Engineers' cutting tools: diamond	159.5	171.4	172.1	172.7	184.4
	Engineers' cutting tools and parts: non-diamond	185.9	215.2	218.3	220.8	225.9
	Hacksaw blades	172.0	218.6	230.8	231.7	231.7
391	Hand tools and implements	220.5	262.1	264.8	266.8	270.7
392	Cutlery and tableware, etc	203.5	231.6	236.5	239.0	244.2
399/1	Metal furniture, office and works equipment	193.0	215.5	223.0	225.3	229.2
	Metal non-domestic furniture	200.3	225.2	232.9	236.1	239.6 e
	Metal chairs	182.7	196.3	196.3	198.6	201.1 e
	Metal cabinets	196.1	214.0	217.8	221.5	228.8 e
399/2	Metal windows and curtain walling	297.0	367.3	369.6	371.5	395.1
399/9	Domestic gas appliances	173.5	190.7	191.2	192.8	208.5
	Gas cookers	173.8	190.6	191.5	191.5	210.0
	Gas water heaters and wash boilers	187.2	206.2	206.2	211.9	229.0
	Gas fires and space heaters	167.1	184.5	184.5	187.6	197.1 e
399/12	Catering equipment	195.7	217.2	220.5	227.5	232.7
	Plumbers' brassware	173.3	200.9	202.0	203.3	210.1
	Domestic oil burning appliances	211.2	235.8	235.8	240.1	259.9
411	Man-made fibres production	166.5	181.8	185.8	186.7	190.0
412, 414/5, and 415	All spun man-made fibres yarns	179.6	209.6	209.5	213.7	217.7
412	Cotton yarns, cotton spun man-made fibres yarns and mixtures of both	205.4	277.7	279.5	281.3	287.7
413	Woven cotton cloth in the loomstate	201.7	246.0	251.3	256.3	263.1
	Man-made fibres fabrics in the loomstate	207.0	218.9	220.3	221.3	228.6
414/2	Yarns of wool spun on the worsted system	206.1	261.0	268.3	268.4	272.8
417	Hosiery and other knitted goods	159.6	175.3	176.9	177.8	182.8
419	Carpets and rugs	197.7	221.3	222.1	228.5	234.5 e
	Carpets	197.5	220.9	221.6	228.2	234.4 e
	Carpets – woven	215.2	243.5	244.5	253.6	257.7 e
	Tufted carpets	162.6	176.1	176.3	178.0	188.2 e
429/1	Asbestos manufactures	188.8	218.5	219.0	219.0	222.7
431/1	Leather for footwear	174.3	210.8	210.8	210.8	215.2
450	Footwear – including rubber footwear	185.2	205.6	208.3	208.6	214.6
461/1	Refractory goods including bricks	227.3	268.3	268.3	289.5	291.9
461/2	Non-refractory goods including building bricks	229.8	264.6	269.3	272.6	274.5
	Engineering: bricks – delivered	277.9	291.6	293.7	303.4	309.3
463/1	Flat glass (including safety and silvered glass)	215.4	230.8	231.7	234.7	242.8
	Glazing sheet and plate glass	188.2	210.4	210.4	210.4	226.3
463/2	Glass containers	219.6	251.1	254.7	254.7	255.2
464	Cement – delivered in bulk	231.5	256.1	268.4	269.8	269.8
469/2	Precast concrete products	217.4	253.2	255.2	256.0	261.2
	Precast concrete pipes – delivered	244.8	293.9	299.6	299.6	304.7
	Precast concrete manholes – delivered	196.0	229.1	234.5	234.5	238.5

Table 3(a) *(continued)*

1968 SIC		1976 Jan	Oct	Nov	Dec p	1977 Jan p
	Plaster gypsum	210.5	228.1	228.1	241.3	243.9
471/1	Homegrown hardwood – sawn	227.6	256.4	258.7	264.8	272.1
471/2	Building joinery	239.7	286.0	290.3	298.1	309.5
472	Furniture and upholstery	202.3	218.7	223.2	225.5	232.2 e
	Domestic furniture	198.5	215.2	219.9	222.1	227.4 e
	Bedroom furniture	180.7	198.8	200.8	203.3	207.9 e
	Bookcases, bookshelves, bureaux, occasional furniture	200.2	214.8	218.0	222.7	230.7 e
	Dining room furniture	203.5	222.5	224.9	225.3	235.9 e
	Kitchen furniture	220.6	244.5	253.4	257.0	262.6 e
	Upholstered furniture	190.4	201.4	205.8	206.8	210.6 e
473	Bedding, etc	215.2	240.7	241.4	244.3	250.7 e
	Upholstered spring interior mattresses	215.3	246.0	246.0	246.0	252.1
	Divan sets	246.4	259.7	259.7	264.3	273.4 e
481	Paper and board	226.5	261.9	264.1	273.5	287.2
	Printing and writings – excluding newsprint	217.0	258.5	260.7	280.0	287.3
482/1	Cardboard boxes, cartons and packing cases – fibreboard	236.9	265.0	268.2	268.8	272.1
483	Manufactured stationery	234.8	259.3	261.5	264.9	280.9
484/1	Wallpaper	225.1	229.7	230.1	230.1	236.7
489	General printing, bookbinding, etc	200.2	217.3	218.8	220.1	223.5
491/1	Rubber tyres and tubes	185.8	215.9	223.3	224.1	224.4
492	Linoleum and felt base	194.4	216.2	216.7	217.0	221.2 e
Part 399 and 472	Office furniture	222.2	240.5	247.2	250.9	261.8
Part 338/ 399/472	Office equipment and machinery	182.1	196.8	200.8	203.7	209.9

ø Index based on scheduled outer zone prices for minimum bulk loads of 500 gallons (motor spirit 1,000 gallons) exclusive of rebates.
p provisional.
e estimates which are subject to possible major revisions.
† Excludes sales to rental companies.
‡ Inclusive of purchase tax (before its abolition), VAT and car tax.
r revised.

Revisions to Table 3(a)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Metal working machine tools	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	259.4	—	—	—	1976
Metal cutting machine tools	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	261.6	—	—	—	1976
Scientific and industrial instruments and systems	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	199.2	—	—	—	1976
Process measuring and control instruments	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	206.6	—	—	—	1976
Analytical instruments	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	186.6	—	—	—	1976

Correction to Table 3(a) of 21 January

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Finished steel (other than sheets, tinplates forgings and castings)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	286.6	—	—	—	1976

TABLE 3(b) Commodities wholly or mainly imported into the United Kingdom

1970 = 100

	1976 Jan	Oct	Nov	Dec p	1977 Jan p
Hides and skins	226.4	339.1	324.2	344.3	372.5
Non-ferrous metals:					
Aluminium, virgin ingot delivered	164.1	226.3	226.3	226.3	241.5
Copper‡	99.4	132.9	133.1	128.4	138.4
Lead‡	130.6	223.7	220.9	223.7	255.6
Nickel§	199.2	240.0	276.5	270.4	264.5
Tin, ingot min. 99.75%‡	200.3	316.8	323.4	323.7	361.7
Zinc‡	276.3	316.3	297.8	309.4	325.9
Zinc§	307.1	379.4	379.1	370.9	362.9
Natural rubber	198.4	301.5	327.4	278.2	281.6
Sulphur, crude cif (for acid making)	297.1	288.1	288.1	288.1	297.2
Textiles:					
Raw cotton, all types	259.1	439.4	439.8	417.7	385.3
American types, cif Liverpool	267.8	438.9	439.5	415.2	381.8
Egyptian types, cif Liverpool	215.9	441.8	441.2	430.1	402.5
Raw wool – all types	242.7	371.3	369.6	357.3	365.2
Imported	243.7	374.1	366.9	352.1	359.7
Imported, merino	230.7	334.1	326.2	315.2	324.6
Imported, fine crossbred	241.4	373.6	374.5	350.8	360.8
Imported, medium and coarse crossbred	295.5	490.9	477.9	461 2	464.1
British types	236.9	355.7	384.3	386.9	396.2
Timber:					
Imported hardwood (ex-yard or wharf)	245.8	319.9	325.1	329.5	336.2
Imported plywood (delivered to consumers)	223.2	303.7	315.2	320.7	324.9
Imported softwood (delivered to consumers)	246.2	361.6	372.0	377.7	386.5 e
Woodpulp, imported	295.1	367.8	368.1	361.9	352.2

‡ LME settlement price. § Producer's price. p provisional. e estimates which are subject to possible major revision.

TABLE 5 United Nations index numbers of world export prices[1]

1970 = 100

	Primary commodities									Primary commodities and non-ferrous metals (2)		
	Total			Agricultural non-food			Non-ferrous metals					
	$	£	Purchasers' currencies	$	£	Purchasers' currencies	$	£	Purchasers' currencies	$	£	Purchasers' currencies
1974 1st quarter	303	318	274	232	244	209	160	168	144	284	298	256
2nd quarter	304	304	263	229	229	198	183	183	159	288	287	249
3rd quarter	309	315	274	221	225	196	142	145	126	287	292	254
4th quarter	320	330	284	212	213	186	126	130	111	294	303	258
1975 1st quarter	312	313	261	201	202	168	124	124	101	287	287	240
2nd quarter	299	309	250	198	204	166	121	125	101	275	284	230
3rd quarter	295	333	261	196	220	173	118	133	105	271	306	240
4th quarter	301	354	271	191	224	172	116	136	104	276	324	249
1976 1st quarter	306	368	279	202	243	184	120	144	109	281	338	256
2nd quarter	309	411	288	211	281	197	135	179	126	286	380	266
3rd quarter (3)	313	425	291	225	306	209	141	192	131	290	394	269
4th quarter (4)	*318*	*462*	*292*	*236*	*343*	*217*	*133*	*193*	*122*	*293*	*426*	*269*
1977 January (4)	*340*	*477*	*311*	*244*	*342*	*223*	*146*	*204*	*133*	*314*	*440*	*287*

(1) Published by the UN in terms of US dollars. For convenience the index numbers are also shown in sterling and in terms of purchasers' currencies by converting the dollar index at prevailing exchange rates. (2) This combined index is not published as such by the UN. (3) Provisional. (4) Projections by Department of Industry.

Manufacturing industry's capital expenditure by regions

This article completes the results of the quarterly inquiry into capital expenditure by regions; the ending of the inquiry was announced in *Trade and Industry* for 19 November 1976. The background to the figures, their coverage and weaknesses were explained in the first article published on 27 February 1976.

The results for the first quarter have been revised with downward adjustments to the shares of the North of England, Yorkshire and Humberside and Wales and most of the balancing increase in the Rest of England.

The results for the second quarter of 1976 are similar to the first for most regions the exception being Yorkshire and Humberside whose share fell sharply to about the level of the first two quarters of 1974. This was offset by a modest rise in the Rest of England after the sharp decline in its share in the first quarter. The sharp rise in the shares of Scotland and the North of England that occurred in the first quarter shows some moderation but they are still well above their 1975 levels.

The share of investment in new building in the first half of 1976 compared with the first half of 1975 increased in both the North and the North West of England and declined in all other regions except Wales. For plant, machinery and vehicles the North and Scotland recorded large increases and the Rest of England a sharp fall.

TABLE 1 Quarterly expenditure by all manufacturing industry

At current prices not seasonally adjusted

	% of UK total								
	England								
Period	North	North West	Yorkshire and Humberside	Rest	Total	Scotland	Wales	Northern Ireland	Total UK* £ million
1974 Year	10.4	14.2	11.2	46.6	82.4	9.3	6.1	2.2	3,145
1975 Year	13.0	12.4	12.8	41.8	80.0	10.5	7.8	1.7	3,449
1974 1st quarter	9.0	13.9	10.8	48.0	81.7	9.0	6.6	2.7	711
2nd quarter	10 7	14.9	10.5	47.1	83.2	9.4	5.1	2.3	705
3rd quarter	10.0	14.0	11.5	48.3	83.8	8.4	5.9	1.9	795
4th quarter	11.7	13.9	11.9	43.7	81.2	10.1	6.6	2.0	934
1975 1st quarter	12.2	13.8	12.1	41.7	79.8	9.6	8.8	1.8	842
2nd quarter	12.3	12.7	12.8	42.3	80.1	11.6	6.5	1.7	815
3rd quarter	13.6	12.0	13.6	41.6	80.8	10.2	7.6	1.5	851
4th quarter	13.8	11.4	12.6	41.5	79.3	10.7	8.2	1.8	940
1976 1st quarter (r)	16.0 (16.4)	11.9 (11.7)	12.6 (12.9)	36.7 (36.1)	77.2 (77.1)	12.3 (12.4)	8.5 (8.7)	1.9 (1.9)	906
2nd quarter	15.8	11.7	10.7	38.9	77.1	12.0	8.6	2.1	892

* Corresponds with figures for manufacturing industry in table 4 of regular article on capital expenditure in *Trade and Industry*
Figures in parentheses as previously published.

TABLE 2 Analysis for the first six months of 1975/6 by asset†

At current prices

		England								
		North	North West	Yorkshire and Humberside	Rest	Total	Scotland	Wales	Northern Ireland	Total UK
1975 (half year)										
New building	£m	34	36	38	144	252	47	25	11	335
	(% UK)	(10)	(11)	(11)	(43)	(75)	(14)	(7)	(4)	(100)
Plant, machinery and vehicles	£m	170	183	168	552	1,073	129	103	17	1,322
	(% UK)	(13)	(14)	(13)	(41)	(81)	(10)	(8)	(1)	(100)
Total	£m	204	220	206	696	1,326	175	128	29	1,658
	(% UK)	(12)	(13)	(12)	(42)	(79)	(11)	(8)	(2)	(100)
1976 (half year)										
New building	£m	43	38	26	124	231	37	20	9	297
	(% UK)	(14)	(13)	(9)	(42)	(78)	(12)	(7)	(3)	(100)
Plant, machinery and vehicles	£m	244	174	184	556	1,158	182	134	27	1,501
	(% UK)	(16)	(12)	(12)	(37)	(77)	(12)	(9)	(2)	(100)
Total	£m	286	212	211	680	1,389	218	154	37	1,798
	(% UK)	(16)	(12)	(12)	(38)	(78)	(12)	(8)	(2)	(100)

† Annual figures for 1975 with comparable annual figures for 1974 were published in *Trade and Industry* for 19 November 1976.

Current account of the United Kingdom balance of payments for January

In January 1977 the current account is estimated to have been in deficit by £345 million. The deficit on trade in goods was 545 million, seasonally adjusted, and the balance on services and other current transactions is estimated to have been running at a monthly surplus of about £200 million.

In the three months November 1976 to January 1977 there was a current account deficit of £607 million compared with £390 million in the previous three months.

£ million seasonally adjusted

	Current balance (c)	Visible balance: Trade in goods (c)	Invisible balance: Services and other current transactions
1975	−1,641	−3,189	+1,548
1976	−1,546	−3,631	+2,085
1975 1st quarter	−544	−947	+403
2nd quarter	−330	−654	+324
3rd quarter	−531	−965	+434
4th quarter	−236	−623	+387
1976 1st quarter	−109	−554	+445
2nd quarter	−466	−937	+471
3rd quarter	−584	−1,153	+569
4th quarter	−387	−987	+600 a
1976 August	−87	−276	+189 b
September	−178	−368	+190 b
October	−125	−325	+200 a
November	−247	−447	+200 a
December	−15	−215	+200 a
1977 January	−345	−545	+200 a
1976 Aug-Oct	−390	−969	+579
Nov-Jan 1977	−607	−1,207	+600

a These figures are projections and are subject to revision as information becomes available.
b One-third of the appropriate calendar quarter's estimate. Monthly figures of invisibles are not available.
c These figures have been revised. See note 10.

Visible trade

Summary: (Figures on a balance of payments basis) (see tables 1 and 3)
In January, there was an erratically large deficit on visible trade of £545 million, seasonally adjusted; the value of exports was £2396 million and the value of imports £2941 million. The deficit was £330 million greater than the comparatively small December figure and resulted from a rise of £365 million in imports compared with a £35 million rise in exports. The very large increase in the figure of imports may have resulted in part from difficulties in the seasonal adjustment procedures to allow fully for the effects of the 1976/77 Christmas/New Year holiday period.

In terms of volume, exports fell by 1½ per cent, while imports rose by 16 per cent. The export unit value index rose by 2 per cent between December and January, but the import unit value index was little changed, reflecting the recent appreciation of sterling. The terms of trade index increased by 2½ per cent.

In the three months ended January, the visible trade deficit was £1207 million compared with £969 million in the previous three months. Trade in oil accounted for over half of the worsening in the deficit. Exports were valued at £7000 million, a rise of 8½ per cent compared with the previous three months, while imports at £8207 million were 11 per cent up. By volume, exports rose by 2½ per cent and imports by 3½ per cent. The terms of trade index fell by nearly 1 per cent between the three monthly periods, the result of a 6 per cent rise in the export unit value index and a 6½ per cent rise in the import unit value index.

Exports (Overseas Trade Statistics basis)

Area analysis (see table 4). The value of exports to the developed countries in aggregate was 10 per cent higher in the three months ended January than in the previous three months. Over this period shipments to the EEC and the rest of Western Europe rose by 11 per cent and 19 per cent respectively, while the value of goods despatched to North America was virtually unchanged. Exports to the other developed countries (Australia, South Africa, New Zealand and Japan) increased by 3 per cent. Exports to the developing countries as a whole increased by 9½ per cent, with the value of shipments to the oil exporting countries 12 per cent higher. The value of goods despatched to the centrally planned economies fell by 2½ per cent.

Commodity analysis (see tables 5, 6 and 7). In the three months ended January the value of exports of manufactured goods was 8½ per cent higher than in the previous three months, with a rise of 2½ per cent in volume. Within this broad category, the value of machinery despatched rose by 9 per cent, while shipments of road motor vehicles and other transport equipment together increased in value by 5 per cent. Both these movements were primarily the result of higher export prices. The increase of 7½ per cent in the value of chemical exports also mainly reflected an upward movement in prices. The rise of 8½ per cent in the value of shipments of metals, on the other hand, reflected roughly equal rises in export volume and price. Deliveries of textiles rose in value by 13 per cent in the latest three months, with a 4½ per cent rise in volume. The value of other manufactured goods despatched increased by 15 per cent. The value of exports of non-manufactures in total rose by 17 per cent. Shipments of food, beverages and tobacco were 12 per cent higher in value, while exports of basic materials and fuels rose by 13 per cent and 25 per cent respectively, in each case mainly reflecting a greater volume of deliveries. Three-fifths of the increase in the value of fuel exports was due to a rise of 84 per cent in the value of exports of crude oil.

Imports (Overseas Trade Statistics basis)

Commodity analysis (see tables 8, 10 and 11). Widespread price increases between the three months ended January and the previous three months were mainly responsible for the increase in the value of imports in most of the major commodity groups, although the appreciation of sterling since November largely halted price increases in January. The value of imports of food beverages and tobacco in the three months ended January rose by 6½ per cent, although volume fell slightly. Imports of fuels rose 18 per cent in value terms (largely reflecting recent erratic monthly movements), and volume rose 12 per cent. Imports of industrial materials as a whole, rose by 13 per cent in value, with higher prices accounting for slightly more of the increase than higher volumes. Within this group the 11 per cent rise in the unit value index for basic materials was the major factor in the 16 per cent increase in value, while the rises of 13

TABLE 1 Visible trade on balance of payments basis

Seasonally adjusted values — £ million

	Exports (fob) r	Imports (fob) r	Visible balance r
1975	18,760	21,949	−3,189
1976	24,424	28,055	−3,631
1975 1st quarter	4,501	5,448	−947
2nd quarter	4,456	5,110	−654
3rd quarter	4,653	5,618	−965
4th quarter	5,150	5,773	−623
1976 1st quarter	5,414	5,968	−554
2nd quarter	5,995	6,932	−937
3rd quarter	6,183	7,336	−1,153
4th quarter	6,832	7,819	−987
1976 August	2,078	2,354	−276
September	2,144	2,512	−368
October	2,228	2,553	−325
November	2,243	2,690	−447
December	2,361	2,576	−215
1977 January p	2,396	2,941	−545
1976 Aug-Oct	6,450	7,419	−969
Nov-Jan 1977 p	7,000	8,207	−1,207
Percentage change*	+8½	+11	

p Provisional estimates. r Revised estimates (see note 10).
* Percentage change: latest three months on previous three months.

TABLE 2 Invisible trade ¶

Seasonally adjusted values — £ million

	Credits	Debits	Invisible balance
1975	11,047	9,499	+1,548
1975 1st quarter	2,661	2,258	+403
2nd quarter	2,705	2,381	+324
3rd quarter	2,792	2,358	+434
4th quarter	2,889	2,502	+387
1976 1st quarter	3,057	2,612	+445
2nd quarter	3,254	2,783	+471
3rd quarter	3,477	2,908	+569
1976 October			+200*
November			+200*
December			+200*
1977 January			+200*

¶ See note 6.
* These figures are projections and are subject to revision as the relevant statistical information becomes available.

TABLE 3 Export and import unit value and volume index numbers on a balance of payments basis

Indices 1970 = 100

	Unit values (not seasonally adjusted)			Volume (seasonally adjusted)	
	Exports	Imports	Terms of trade†	Exports r	Imports r
1975	198.5	245.7	80.8	124.9	125.6
1976	240.6	301.3	79.9	134.8	133.3
1975 1st quarter	184.9	240.5	76.9	128.1	127.0
2nd quarter	193.4	241.1	80.2	122.0	121.2
3rd quarter	202.2	247.1	81.8	120.6	127.5
4th quarter	210.1	260.4	80.7	128.9	126.5
1976 1st quarter	219.0	270.0	81.1	130.3	124.9
2nd quarter	234.2	293.6	79.8	135.9	134.7
3rd quarter	247.4	309.3	80.0	133.1	136.6
4th quarter	261.7	332.1	78.8	139.9	137.2
1976 August	247.9	308.0	80.5	133.8	131.4
September	251.7	313.8	80.2	136.2	139.3
October	256.4	324.0	79.2	139.8	140.4
November	261.8	334.8	78.2	137.7	138.8
December	266.9	337.5	79.1	142.3	132.3
1977 January p	272.7	337.2	80.9	140.0	153.7
1976 Aug-Oct	252.0	315.3	80.0	136.6	137.0
Nov-Jan 1977 p	267.1	336.5	79.4	140.0	141.6
Percentage change	+6	+6½	−1	+2½	+3½

† Export Unit Value Index as a percentage of the Import Unit Value Index.
p Provisional estimates.
r Revised estimates.

per cent and 12 per cent in the value of chemicals and other semi manufactures imports respectively reflected roughly equal rises in price and volume. Imports of finished manufactures in total rose 9 per cent in value terms, with increased prices the dominant feature. Within this group, the 6½ per cent rise in value of machinery imports included a 4½ per cent rise in volume. Road motor vehicle imports rose by 4½ per cent in value while other transport equipment increased by 11 per cent. For the two groups combined, the 6 per cent rise in value was mainly due to increased prices. The 17 per cent rise in other finished manufactures reflected roughly equal rises in price and volume.

Area analysis (see table 9). The value of imports from the developed countries rose by 10 per cent in the three months ended January, compared with the previous three months. Imports from the rest of Western Europe rose by 17 per cent and those from the EEC by 12 per cent. Arrivals from the other developed countries and from North America increased by 6½ per cent and 1 per cent respectively. Among the developing countries, there was a 13 per cent rise in deliveries from the oil exporting countries while shipments from the other developing countries increased by 15 per cent. Imports from the centrally planned economies also increased by 15 per cent.

Invisible trade (see table 2)
The latest estimate of invisibles relates to the third quarter of 1976 when credits on services and other current transactions were £3477 million and debits £2908 million, giving a surplus of £569 million for the quarter. The surplus is projected to be running currently at the rate of £200 million a month.

Notes

1 Trade figures on a balance of payments basis. The seasonally adjusted import and export figures on a balance of payments basis are obtained by making various adjustments to the seasonally adjusted figures derived from those recorded in the monthly *Overseas Trade Statistics*. These adjustments are summarised in table 13. Some are valuation adjustments; the principal of these is the deduction from the import figure of freight and insurance costs. The other adjustments relate to coverage. Included under this heading are adjustments to bring in items not in the Trade Statistics (for example on the import side ships built and delivered abroad direct to UK owners) and to remove items which are in the Trade Statistics (mainly returned goods and goods for processing and repair), where no change of ownership is involved. In addition adjustments are made from time to time to the level of exports to take account of variations in the quality of recording as revealed by the regular monitoring of the accuracy of the export figures (as described in an article in *Trade and Industry*, 15 February 1973). All these adjustments are described in greater detail in the annual '*Pink Book*' *United Kingdom Balance of Payments 1964-74* (table 4 and pages 64-67) and in an article in the issue of *Trade and Industry* dated 4 November 1970.

Since firm figures for the adjustments do not become available as quickly as the recorded trade statistics, the figures for imports and exports on a balance of payments basis in the latest months are at this stage preliminary estimates and liable to revision.

TABLE 4 Exports: areas¶ Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted values — £ million fob

	Total	Developed countries				Developing countries		Centrally planned economies
		EEC	Rest of W. Europe	North America	Other	Oil exporting countries	Other	
1976 r	25,778	9,174	4,275	3,098	1,943	3,143	3,362	727
1976 1st quarter r	5,740	1,958	914	691	501	695	809	175
2nd quarter r	6,310	2,246	1,053	773	472	751	807	183
3rd quarter r	6,500	2,342	1,061	797	490	786	837	182
4th quarter r	7,228	2,628	1,247	837	481	911	909	187
1976 November r	2,376	880	427	268	159	296	307	59
December r	2,493	904	431	284	159	319	320	61
1977 January p	2,534	925	483	275	189	316	294	66
1976 August-October	6,801	2,443	1,127	825	492	835	857	190
November-January 1977 p	7,403	2,709	1,342	826	507	931	921	185
Percentage change	+9	+11	+19	—	+3	+12	+7½	−2½

¶ See Note 2. r Revised estimates. p Provisional estimates.

2 The adjustments described at note 1 are made only for the monthly totals of exports and imports (table 1) and the monthly figures of trade in petroleum and petroleum products (table 12). They are not estimated for the area and other commodity analysis of trade. The values of total trade and the main components of exports and imports in tables 4 to 11 are available only on the *Overseas Trade Statistics* basis. Whereas comment on total trade and trade in petroleum and petroleum products relates to figures for exports and imports on a balance of payments basis, analysis of the area and other commodity patterns of trade are based on the figures on the *Overseas Trade Statistics* basis in tables 4 to 11. The main components of trade are seasonally adjusted independently from the totals and in consequence do not always add exactly to the seasonally adjusted totals.

3 Visible balance. The visible balance is the difference between the import and export figures on a balance of payments basis obtained as described in note 1 above. Since, as noted above, the import and export figures for the most recent months are provisional, it follows that the monthly visible balances for these months are also provisional and liable to revision.

The monthly figures for the visible balance are published only on a seasonally adjusted basis. Since the balance is the difference of two large and variable figures, it is itself liable to fluctuation and undue significance should not be attached to a single month's figure; it is more useful to consider the total balance over three or more months.

4 Trends. Even after allowing for seasonal influences, the sequence of monthly figures is usually too variable to give a satisfactory indication of the underlying trend. While it is possible to construct elaborate estimates of trend these cannot be applied to the most recent months, and a simple method of giving some guidance on underlying movements in the most recent past is to take the sum of three months. Apart from occasions when major disturbances distort the flows of trade, the three-monthly total gives a quite good short-term guide and has the merit of simplicity.

5 Timing. The figures for exports relate to documents received in the Statistical Office of HM Customs and Excise up to a few days before the end of the calendar month. On average export documents arrive at Customs Statistical Office within a fortnight of the shipment of goods, so that the documents relate to goods passing through the ports in the month ending about the middle of the calendar month to which they are attributed. The figures for imports relate to documents received at the Customs Statistical Office up to the third working day after the end of the month. Importers are usually required to present their documents before they can obtain customs clearance and remove the goods. Thus the import statistics correspond closely to movements through the ports during the calendar month to which they are attributed.

6 Invisible trade (services and other current transactions) covers the following items: Government services and transfer payments; all other services including sea and air transport, travel and insurance, banking and other financial transactions; overseas income in the form of interest, profits and dividends; and private transfers. The monthly figures are inevitably less precise than those for visible trade for several reasons; the data are not available in a monthly basis (some are reported quarterly, others less frequently)

TABLE 5 Exports: commodity classes¶ Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted values — £ million fob

					Manufactures									
						Machinery and transport equipment								
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Basic materials	Fuels	Total	Total	Machinery	Road motor vehicles	Other transport equipment*	Chemicals	Metals and miscellaneous metal manufactures	Textiles	Other manufactures	Miscellaneous
1976 r	25,778	1,694	776	1,255	21,347	10,126	7,062	2,224	840	3,047	2,347	934	4,892	707
1976 1st quarter r	5,740	397	164	240	4,792	2,347	1,658	510	190	670	483	204	1,063	175
2nd quarter r	6,310	406	182	286	5,229	2,514	1,741	553	203	733	575	223	1,228	170
3rd quarter r	6,500	419	197	333	5,414	2,530	1,753	561	200	783	635	240	1,204	178
4th quarter r	7,228	472	232	395	5,913	2,735	1,910	601	246	860	653	267	1,397	183
1976 November r	2,376	158	77	144	1,970	904	629	220	63	284	231	89	437	52
December r	2,493	164	78	132	2,051	946	670	194	94	296	225	94	499	57
1977 January p	2,534	174	84	152	2,053	915	669	189	66	295	228	97	536	61
1976 August-October	6,801	443	212	341	5,586	2,610	1,802	569	217	812	628	247	1,282	204
Nov-Jan 1977 p	7,403	496	239	428	6,075	2,765	1,968	603	224	875	683	280	1,472	171
Percentage change	+9	+12	+13	+25	+8½	+6	+9	+6	+3½	+7½	+8½	+13	+15	−16

* Not seasonally adjusted. ¶ See note 2. r Revised estimates. p Provisional estimates.

TABLE 6 Exports: volume indices Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted — Indices 1970 = 100

					Manufactures							
						Machinery and transport equipment						
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Basic materials	Fuels	Total	Total	Machinery	Road motor vehicles and other transport equipment	Chemicals	Metals and miscellaneous metal manufactures	Textiles	Other manufactures
Weights	1,000	64	34	26	844	410	276	134	97	119	49	169
1976 r	139.4	156	122	108	140	133	135	130	171	108	124	168
1976 1st quarter r	135.4	160	118	92	137	134	137	129	164	98	116	160
2nd quarter r	140.3	151	119	104	141	135	135	130	167	110	122	173
3rd quarter r	137.3	152	118	114	139	130	132	124	171	114	126	161
4th quarter r	144.6	161	131	121	144	134	134	136	180	111	130	176
1976 November r	142.2	159	135	129	145	134	133	143	178	113	130	166
December r	146.6	163	130	121	147	134	138	130	182	117	135	185
1977 January p	144.9	167	138	133	144	128	136	115	174	120	135	194
1976 Aug-Oct	141.2	159	123	112	141	132	133	127	175	111	127	168
Nov-Jan 1977 p	144.6	163	134	128	145	132	136	129	178	117	133	182
Percentage change	+2½	+3	+9	+13	+2½	–	+2	+2	+2	+5	+4½	+7

p Provisional estimates. r Revised estimates.

and the figures are, therefore, essentially projections based on past trends; revisions, affecting particularly gross credits and debits, but often the balance as well, are more frequent; and the gross figures themselves include a number of items which are appropriately recorded as the net profit or surplus arising on the transactions.

7 Trade in petroleum and petroleum products. Trade in petroleum and petroleum products (table 12) accounts for almost all the trade in Fuels, Section 3 of SITC(R) which is included in tables 5 and 8. Import and export figures are shown for crude oil and for the rest of the division which includes petroleum partly refined for further refining and petroleum products (eg motor spirit, lamp oil and white spirit, distillate fuels, residual fuel oils, lubricating oils and greases, etc).

The figures of value and tonnage of crude oil imports in table 12 are based on reports to HM Customs and Excise and have been seasonally adjusted with the same seasonal and length of month factors as have been used for the Fuels total in table 8. These figures cannot be directly compared with the monthly import tonnages originating from the Department of Energy which are published in the *Monthly Digest of Statistics* and the *Digest of Energy Statistics*, as the latter are based on reports received directly from the oil industry and are unadjusted. Over longer periods the differences between the two sources are largely resolved.

For imports, the average value of crude oil per ton has been obtained by dividing the value of crude oil imports by the tonnage and will reflect not only changes in price but also changes in the commodity mix of imports due, for example, to differing qualities of crude oil.

The figures of value of crude oil exports have been seasonally adjusted with the same seasonal and length of month factors as have been used for the Fuels total in table 5. These figures include oil which has been re-exported.

8 Unit value and volume indices. A brief description of the way in which the index numbers on a balance of payments basis are calculated was published in the article giving unit value and volume index numbers for March 1971 in *Trade and Industry* of 26 May 1971. An article was published in *Trade and Industry* on 11 October 1973 introducing the series of import and export unit value and volume indices with 1970 = 100. The purpose of the index numbers is to measure the changes in price and volume of our imports and exports. Index numbers can be constructed in various ways, and the series used here are of the fixed base type. Thus, the unit value indices measure changes in 'price' of a fixed selection of trade headings (although in practice it is not specific prices which are measured but the average price of all the varying transactions taking place each month in the selected headings, reflecting different kinds of goods covered by each heading and different markets or sources of supply).

Correspondingly, the volume indices measure, for the same selection of trade headings, what the change in the value of trade would be assuming no changes in the prices charged from those in the base year. Because the indices are base weighted, they do not take account of the changes in the pattern of trade since the base year, and consequently their product does not precisely account for the change in the value of trade expressed as an index. In practice,

TABLE 7 Exports: unit value indices Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Not seasonally adjusted — Indices 1970 = 100

					Manufactures							
						Machinery and transport equipment						
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Basic materials	Fuels	Total	Total	Machinery	Road motor vehicles and other transport equipment	Chemicals	Metals and miscellaneous metal manufactures	Textiles	Other manufactures
1976 r	240.1	213	240	553	234	245	250	234	238	228	202	221
1976 1st quarter	218.9	192	211	496	214	224	231	210	219	206	185	199
2nd quarter	234.3	211	229	530	229	242	248	230	232	216	196	213
3rd quarter	247.4	220	249	553	242	254	258	246	245	233	207	226
4th quarter r	261.7	229	262	608	256	269	273	260	259	247	222	239
1976 November	261.8	230	262	623	255	266	271	255	259	251	220	240
December r	266.9	231	264	619	261	277	281	268	265	248	228	242
1977 January p	272.6	235	272	625	267	283	286	278	269	253	230	248
1976 Aug-Oct	252.0	224	254	565	246	259	263	252	250	238	212	230
Nov-Jan 1977 p	267.1	232	266	622	261	275	279	267	265	251	226	243
Percentage change	+6	+4	+4½	+10	+6	+6	+6	+6	+6	+5½	+6½	+5½

p Provisional estimates. r Revised estimates.

TABLE 8 Imports: commodity classes¶ Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted values — £ million cif

				Industrial materials				Finished manufactures						
									Machinery and transport equipment†					
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Fuels	Total	Basic materials	Chemicals	Other semi-manufactures	Total	Total	Machinery†	Road motor vehicles	Other transport equipment*	Other	Miscellaneous
1976 r	31,213	4,993	5,652	11,296	3,223	2,000	6,073	8,860	6,389	4,637	1,398	354	2,471	412
1976 1st quarter r	6,681	1,070	1,301	2,418	678	431	1,309	1,821	1,270	909	265	95	551	96
2nd quarter r	7,678	1,250	1,346	2,735	760	486	1,489	2,151	1,572	1,180	325	99	579	117
3rd quarter r	8,110	1,266	1,493	2,904	856	515	1,532	2,344	1,716	1,255	392	64	628	107
4th quarter r	8,744	1,406	1,511	3,239	929	568	1,743	2,543	1,831	1,293	416	96	713	92
1976 November r	2,988	487	594	1,105	335	192	579	809	566	408	139	25	243	32
December r	2,907	439	501	1,071	306	189	576	858	619	442	139	26	239	31
1977 January p	3,234	502	554	1,249	364	224	662	935	653	437	156	41	282	37
1976 Aug-Oct	8,262	1,343	1,403	3,031	867	536	1,628	2,392	1,735	1,208	415	82	656	101
Nov-Jan 1977 p	9,129	1,427	1,650	3,426	1,004	605	1,817	2,603	1,838	1,287	434	91	765	100
Percentage change	+10	+6½	+18	+13	+16	+13	+12	+9	+6	+6½	+4½	+11	+17	−1

* Not seasonally adjusted. ¶ See note 2. r Revised estimates. p Provisional estimates. † Includes North Sea production installations.

though, since the composition of trade changes little between consecutive months, the product of the changes in the indices will often approximate to the change in the value of trade between one month and the next. A full methodological article about the 1970-based series of indices was published in the April 1975 issue of *Economic Trends*. Adjustments have been made to the import volume index to include North Sea oil production installations, however, no changes have been made to the base-weighted unit value index.

9 Definition of areas. The areas used in Tables 4 and 9 comprise the following countries:

EEC – West Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, France, Italy, Denmark and Irish Republic.

Rest of Western Europe – Finland, Sweden, Norway, Iceland, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Portugal, Austria, Andorra, Vatican City, Greece, Turkey, Yugoslavia, Spain, Faroe Islands, Gibraltar, Malta, Continental Shelf (Foreign Part).

TABLE 9 Imports: areas¶ Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted values — £ million cif

	Total	Developed countries			Developing countries			Centrally planned economies
		EEC	Rest of W. Europe	North America	Other	Oil exporting countries	Other	
1976 r	31,213	11,396	4,584	4,219	2,124	4,210	3,514	1,133
1976 1st quarter r	6,681	2,436	987	882	430	933	764	277
2nd quarter r	7,678	2,887	1,083	1,023	498	964	869	301
3rd quarter r	8,110	2,828	1,231	1,122	578	1,179	912	274
4th quarter r	8,744	3,245	1,283	1,191	619	1,135	969	282
1976 November r	2,988	1,078	423	385	216	443	344	91
December r	2,907	1,110	452	374	208	381	310	96
1977 January p	3,234	1,168	492	435	207	396	405	136
1976 Aug-Oct	8,262	2,986	1,168	1,184	592	1,082	923	281
Nov-Jan 1977 p	9,129	3,356	1,367	1,193	630	1,220	1,059	324
Percentage change	+10	+12	+17	+1	+6½	+13	+15	+15

¶ See note 2. r Revised estimates. p Provisional estimates.

TABLE 10 Imports: volume indices
Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted — Indices 1970 = 100

	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Fuels	Industrial materials				Finished manufactures				
				Total	Basic materials	Chemicals	Other semi-manufactures	Total	Machinery and transport equipment†			Other
									Total	Machinery†	Road motor vehicles and other transport equipment	
Weights	1,000	227	105	427	151	60	216	229	166	133	33	63
1976 r	135.5	101	87	127	93	150	145	196	197	186	241	193
1976 1st quarter r	126.4	95	89	124	90	143	142	182	177	166	222	195
2nd quarter r	134.1	101	87	126	92	148	144	193	196	189	244	186
3rd quarter r	135.8	103	88	127	95	153	142	202	206	194	251	193
4th quarter r	137.8	104	85	132	94	157	151	206	210	196	247	197
1976 November r	138.9	107	98	133	101	158	149	198	197	191	229	201
December r	134.5	98	82	128	91	155	147	205	210	197	241	190
1977 January p	151.7	110	95	152	108	183	173	230	226	205	278	238
1976 Aug-Oct	137.3	106	82	130	94	155	148	205	208	189	263	198
Nov-Jan 1977 p	141.7	105	92	138	100	165	156	211	211	198	249	210
Percentage change	+3	−½	+12	+6	+6½	+6½	+5½	+2½	+1½	+4½	−5	+6

p Provisional estimates. r Revised estimates. † Includes North Sea production installations.

TABLE 11 Imports: unit value indices
Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted — Indices 1970 = 100

	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Fuels	Industrial materials				Finished manufactures				
				Total	Basic materials	Chemicals	Other semi-manufactures	Total	Machinery and transport equipment			Other
									Total	Machinery	Road motor vehicles and other transport equipment	
1976 r	288.6	247	704	239	260	267	217	237	232	227	253	249
1976 1st quarter	258.8	228	636	210	226	239	190	213	207	204	221	226
2nd quarter	281.4	243	686	230	248	262	210	234	230	225	251	242
3rd quarter	296.4	246	728	247	266	274	226	246	242	237	262	258
4th quarter	318.9	268	768	268	295	296	240	265	258	251	287	284
1976 November	320.9	270	781	267	295	296	241	266	260	251	293	284
December r	323.9	271	778	274	307	298	244	268	259	253	287	289
1977 January p	323.8	275	776	275	307	303	244	263	257	247	298	278
1976 Aug-Oct	302.7	253	736	252	274	282	230	252	247	241	272	266
Nov-Jan 1977 p	322.9	272	778	272	303	299	243	266	259	250	293	284
Percentage change	+6½	+7½	+6	+7½	+11	+6	+6	+5	+4½	+4	+8	+6½

p Provisional estimates. r Revised estimates.

North America – USA, Canada, Puerto Rico, Greenland, St Pierre and Miquelon.
Other Developed Countries – Australia, New Zealand, Japan and South Africa.
Centrally Planned Economies – Soviet Union, Poland, East Germany, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Albania, Bulgaria, Romania, China, North Korea, Outer Mongolia and Vietnam.
Oil Exporting Countries – Abu Dhabi, Algeria, Bahrein, Brunei, Dubai, Ecuador, Gabon, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sharjah, etc, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela.
Other Developing Countries – All other countries.

10 Revisions. Revisions have been made to the seasonally adjusted estimates of value and volume for both exports and imports. These result from the usual annual updating of seasonal factors and also, on this occasion, the incorporation of an improved series of length of month adjustments, which seek to stardardise the working length of each month for processing documents, for the period 1970-74. These adjustments, like those for 1975 and subsequent years, now make better use of document flow data from Customs and Excise. Most of the revisions, which have been computed back to 1970, have occurred in the Easter and end of year period. The new series for exports, imports and the visible balance are somewhat less erratic than the original ones.

Overseas Trade Statistics
Detailed particulars of United Kingdom imports and exports for January with cumulative totals will be published on 25 February* and further analysis of the figures will be found in tables 14.1 to 14.19 in the *Monthly Digest* for February†, due to be published in the second week of March.

Telephone inquiries concerning this article should be referred to: 01-215 3131 – value data and 01-215 3466 – indices.

* *Overseas Trade Statistics of the United Kingdom*, published by HMSO, price £6.50 (Annual Subscription £93.60).
† *Monthly Digest of Statistics*, published by HMSO, price £1.95 (Annual Subscription including Supplement of Definitions and postage £27.86).

TABLE 12 Trade in petroleum and petroleum products¶ On a Balance of Payments basis (Division 33 of SITC(R))

Seasonally adjusted

	Balance of visible trade	Imports					Exports		
		Total	Crude oil			Rest of Division 33	Total	Crude oil	Rest of Division 33
	£ million fob	£ million fob	£ million fob	million tons	Average value per ton £ fob	£ million fob	£ million fob	£ million fob	£ million fob
1975 r	−3,106	3,827	3,069	85.6	35.9	758	721	30	691
1976 r	−3,964	5,126	4,092	85.7	47.8	1,034	1,162	177	985
1975 1st quarter r	−774	949	759	22.2	34.3	190	175	7	168
2nd quarter r	−682	840	696	20.7	33.8	144	158	2	156
3rd quarter r	−785	976	800	22.4	35.6	176	191	5	186
4th quarter r	−865	1,062	814	20.3	40.2	248	197	16	181
1976 1st quarter r	−960	1,179	929	21.5	43.4	250	219	18	201
2nd quarter r	−957	1,219	956	20.6	46.5	263	262	25	237
3rd quarter r	−1,043	1,355	1,080	21.8	49.6	275	312	44	268
4th quarter r	−1,004	1,373	1,127	21.8	51.9	246	369	90	279
1976 November r	−407	541	452	8.7	52.6	89	134	37	97
December r	−331	455	370	7.0	52.6	85	124	29	95
1977 January p	−357	501	389	7.4	52.3	112	144	43	101
1976 Aug-Oct	−953	1,273	1,028	20.6	49.9	245	320	59	261
Nov-Jan 1977 p	−1,095	1,497	1,211	23.1	52.4	286	402	109	293
Percentage change		+18	+18	+12	+5	+17	+25	+84	+12

p Provisional estimates. r Revised estimates. ¶ See note 7.

TABLE 13 Derivation of the visible trade figures on a balance of payments basis

£ million

	Exports				Imports			
	Recorded	Seasonally adjusted†			Recorded	Seasonally adjusted†		
	Overseas Trade Statistics basis (fob)	Overseas Trade Statistics basis (fob)	Coverage adjustments	Balance of Payments basis (fob)	Overseas Trade Statistics basis (cif)	Overseas Trade Statistics basis (cif)	Adjustments to BOP basis: Valuation adjustments	Adjustments to BOP basis: Coverage adjustments	Balance of payments basis (fob)
1975 r	19,922	19,922	−1,161	18,760	24,128	24,128	−1,580	−599	21,949
1976 r	25,778	25,778	−1,353	24,424	31,213	31,213	−2,035	−1,122	28,055
1975 1st quarter r	4,593	4,748	−248	4,501	5,883	5,950	−370	−132	5,448
2nd quarter r	4,942	4,722	−266	4,456	5,832	5,573	−375	−88	5,110
3rd quarter r	4,796	4,962	−308	4,653	5,998	6,190	−417	−155	5,618
4th quarter r	5,591	5,490	−340	5,150	6,415	6,415	−418	−224	5,773
1976 1st quarter r	5,818	5,740	−326	5,414	6,820	6,681	−435	−278	5,968
2nd quarter r	6,393	6,310	−315	5,995	7,776	7,678	−502	−244	6,932
3rd quarter r	6,260	6,500	−317	6,183	7,805	8,110	−526	−248	7,336
4th quarter r	7,307	7,228	−396	6,832	8,812	8,744	−572	−352	7,819
1976 August r	1,961	2,179	−101	2,078	2,361	2,599	−166	−80	2,354
September r	2,196	2,263	−119	2,144	2,734	2,814	−185	−118	2,512
October r	2,297	2,359	−130	2,228	2,811	2,849	−187	−108	2,553
November r	2,491	2,376	−133	2,243	3,109	2,988	−197	−101	2,690
December r	2 519	2,493	−133	2,361	2,891	2,907	−188	−143	2,576
1977 January p	2,345	2,534	−138	2,396	3,018	3,234	−209	−84	2,941
1976 Aug-Oct	6,454	6,801	−350	6,450	7,906	8,262	−538	−305	7,419
Nov-Jan 1977 p	7,355	7,403	−403	7.000	9,018	9,129	−593	−328	8,207
Percentage change	+14	+9		+8½	+14	+10			+11

† Components and totals are rounded independently. p Provisional estimates. r Revised estimates (see note 10).

Turnover of the catering trades in December 1976

Catering turnover, at current prices and after seasonal adjustment, in December was unchanged compared with the previous month.

The total turnover of the catering trades at current prices and after seasonal adjustment in the fourth quarter of 1976 was little changed compared with the third quarter. For the year 1976 as a whole, catering turnover increased by 14 per cent compared with 1975.

Recent percentage increases compared with corresponding periods a year earlier (at current prices but *not* seasonally adjusted) for the main kinds of business are:

		All caterers	Licensed hotels and holiday camps	Restaurants, cafes and fish and chip shops	Public houses	Canteens
1976	1st quarter	13	16	9	14	17
	2nd quarter	17	20	11	18	14
	3rd quarter	14	18 r	13	13	14 r
	4th quarter	12	18	13	11	16
1976	July	14	20	12	13	17
	August	12	16	11	10	14
	September	15 r	18 r	14	15	12 r
	October	13	17	11	12	17
	November	15	21	15	13	16
	December	10	17	12	8	15

(r = revised figure)

Notes: 1. The Easter Bank Holiday fell entirely within the April trading period in 1976, whereas in 1975 it was in March.
2. The Spring Bank holiday fell between the May and June periods in 1976, whereas in 1975 it was entirely in May.
3. The Summer Bank holiday fell between the August and September periods in 1976, whereas in 1975 it was entirely in August.

The increase of 14 per cent in catering turnover between 1975 and 1976 comprised increases of 19 per cent in hotels and holiday camps, 12 per cent in restaurants, cafes and fish and chip shops, 14 per cent in public houses, and 15 per cent in canteens.

Notes

From the beginning of 1977 the periodicity of the inquiry is being changed from monthly to quarterly. This is the last monthly article. The results for the first quarter of 1977 are due to be published by press notice on 16 May and in *Trade and Industry* on 20 May. That notice will contain any revisions to the fourth quarter of 1976 due to receipt of late monthly returns for October, November and December. The article in *Trade and Industry* will give, in addition to the usual percentage changes, the final monthly indices by kind of business. This is because revisions to the November and December figures will not be shown in the Business Monitor for the catering trades, which has now been changed from monthly to quarterly.

Inquiries: 01-215 3177.

TABLE 1 Turnover of all caterers seasonally adjusted

Index numbers of turnover per week† 1969 = 100

		Value at current prices (turnover in 1969 – £2,533 million)
1969		100
1970		108
1971		118
1972		131
1973		148
1974		170
1975		201
1976		230
1975	1st quarter	187
	2nd quarter	198
	3rd quarter	208
	4th quarter	210
1976	1st quarter	215
	2nd quarter	229
	3rd quarter	236
	4th quarter	237
1975	January*	186
	February	188
	March*	188
	April	191
	May	195
	June*	207
	July	210
	August	213
	September*	202
	October	208
	November	208
	December*	214
1976	January	214
	February	214
	March*	218
	April	224
	May	225
	June*	236
	July	239
	August	238
	September*	231 r
	October	235
	November	238
	December*	238
1976	July-September	236
1976	October-December	237
Percentage increase (r = revised).		Nil

† The monthly periods consist of four weeks except those marked * which are of five weeks. The December 1976 period was the five weeks from 28 November 1976 to 1 January 1977; the December 1975 period was the five weeks from 30 November 1975 to 3 January 1976.

Turnover of the motor trades in the fourth quarter of 1976

The total turnover of the motor trades in the fourth quarter of 1976 was 29 per cent higher than in the fourth quarter of 1975. On the same comparison, new vehicle sales were 51 per cent higher, used vehicle sales increased by 21 per cent and other sales and receipts (which include sales of petrol and oil, tyres, spares and accessories, and receipts from servicing and repairs) rose by 20 per cent.

In the year 1976 as a whole, the turnover of the motor trades was 21 per cent higher than in 1975, the increases in sales of new and used vehicles being 30 and 24 per cent respectively, while other sales and receipts rose by 15 per cent.

Notes

The statistics are of turnover at current prices. Movements therefore include the effect of price changes, including changes in purchase tax before the second quarter of 1973, the introduction of VAT and car tax from the second quarter of 1973, the introduction of VAT on petrol from the second quarter of 1974, and subsequent changes in the rates of VAT. The turnover includes transactions between dealers in addition to final sales. Vehicles include commercial vehicles as well as private cars and motor cycles.

The estimates for Q3 1976 have been revised to take account of additional information from late returns.

The figures are *not* seasonally adjusted.

The returns made by a voluntary panel are used to project the figures of turnover in a base year (1972) obtained in a comprehensive inquiry to motor traders.

Inquiries: 01-215 3177.

Index numbers of turnover per quarter at current prices (including purchase tax or VAT and car tax)

Percentage change compared with a year earlier in brackets — 1972 = 100

	Total turnover	New vehicle sales	Used vehicle sales	Other sales
Turnover in 1972 (£ million)	(8,109)	(3,089)	(1,373)	(3,647)
1972	100	100	100	100
1973	111 (+11)	110 (+10)	102 (+2)	115 (+15)
1974	119 (+7)	106 (−3)	100 (−2)	137 (+19)
1975	143 (+20)	123 (+16)	128 (+28)	166 (+21)
1976	174 (+21)	160 (+30)	158 (+24)	191 (+15)
1972 1st qtr.	95	94	100	93
2nd qtr.	105	109	107	101
3rd qtr.	102	101	103	104
4th qtr.	98	96	90	102
1973 1st qtr.	117 (+23)	126 (+34)	119 (+18)	109 (+17)
2nd qtr.	110 (+5)	110 (+1)	103 (−3)	113 (+12)
3rd qtr.	114 (+12)	111 (+10)	108 (+5)	119 (+15)
4th qtr.	102 (+4)	93 (−3)	80 (−12)	118 (+16)
1974 1st qtr.	108 (−8)	102 (−20)	87 (−27)	120 (+10)
2nd qtr.	122 (+11)	112 (+2)	106 (+3)	136 (+20)
3rd qtr.	126 (+11)	110 (−1)	111 (+3)	146 (+22)
4th qtr.	121 (+18)	102 (+10)	95 (+20)	147 (+24)
1975 1st qtr.	137 (+27)	127 (+25)	116 (+33)	152 (+27)
2nd qtr.	148 (+21)	129 (+15)	136 (+27)	168 (+23)
3rd qtr.	152 (+21)	131 (+19)	143 (+29)	174 (+19)
4th qtr.	135 (+12)	105 (+3)	117 (+23)	168 (+15)
1976 1st qtr.	166 (+22)	161 (+27)	153 (+32)	175 (+15)
2nd qtr.	176 (+19)	162 (+25)	170 (+26)	189 (+12)
3rd qtr. (revised)	178 (+17)	159 (+22)	167 (+17)	199 (+15)
4th qtr.	175 (+29)	159 (+51)	141 (+21)	201 (+20)

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Business names and limited partnerships in Great Britain in 1976

During the year ended 31 December 1976, there were 108,333 new registrations under the Registration of Business Names Act 1916 (as amended by the Companies Act 1947). A total of 5,839 statements showing changes in particulars were filed during the period and 13,790 names were removed from the register.

There were 67 new registrations under the Limited Partnership Act 1907.

Registrations of British, community and foreign films

The following are details of films registered by the Department of Trade under the Films Acts 1960 to 1970, as amended by the European Communities Act 1972, during the week ended Friday, 11 February 1977.

BR/E indicates that the film is a British quota film, EC that the film is a quota film. The date which forms part of the registration number of each is the date on which quota life of the film expires.

Title of film	Registered no	Playing time minutes	Date of registration	Registered in the name of	Maker's name
			BRITISH		
The Seven-Per-Cent Solution	BR/E 38965/13/2/82	114	9 February	Cinema International Corporation (UK)	Universal Pictures Ltd, London
Echo Of The Badlands	BR/E 38966/13/2/82	54	11 February	Childrens Film Foundation Ltd	Little King and Partners Ltd and Eady Barnes Productions Ltd, London
Movietone News 2488	BR/E 38849/13/2/82	8	11 February	British Movietonews Ltd	British Movietonews Ltd
			COMMUNITY		
Death Dealers	EC 38962/13/2/82	95	8 February	Miracle Films Ltd	Paneuropean Production Pictures SrL, Rome
			FOREIGN		
Salty	F 38963	90	9 February	National Telefilm Associates Inc (UK) Ltd	Saltwater Releasing Company Inc, California
The Man From Button Willow	F 38964	81	9 February	National Telefilm Associates Inc (UK) Ltd	Animation Filmakers Corporation, California
Giant Spider Invasion	F 38967	76	11 February	Hemdale International Films Ltd	Group One International Organisation Ltd, California
Seven Alone	F 38968	89	11 February	Hemdale International Films Ltd	Cinema Shares International Corporation, New York
Against A Crooked Sky	F 38969	88	11 February	Hemdale International Films Ltd	Cinema Shares International Corporation, New York
Cross Of Iron	F 38971	133	11 February	EMI Film Distributors Ltd	Anglo-EMI Productions Ltd, Rapid-Film GmbH, Munich and Terra Filmkunst GmbH, Berlin

Index to statistics and organisational information published regularly in 'Trade and Industry'

A = annually M = monthly Q = quarterly 6M = every six months.

Title	Last published
Air transport: trade by air (A)	16 July 1976
Balance of payments:	
current account (M)	This week
trends in invisible transactions	22 Oct. 1976
(*see also* Overseas trade of the UK)	
Business names and limited partnerships (A)	7 May 1976
Capital expenditure: manufacturing, distributive and service industries (Q)	7 Jan. 1977
By regions	This week
Catering trades turnover (M)	This week
Census of production (A)	28 Jan. 1977
Chemicals industry activity (Q)	7 Jan. 1977
Companies:	
acquisitions and mergers (Q)	11 Feb. 1977
Liquidations *see* Insolvencies	
liquidity (Q)	10 Dec. 1976
new registrations:	
Gt. Britain (M)	21 Jan. 1977
N. Ireland (M)	4 Feb. 1977
rate of return on capital (A)	8 Oct. 1976
Structure of company financing	4 Feb. 1977
Construction work overseas (A)	15 Oct. 1976
EEC economic indicators	This week
Energy trends (M)	4 Feb. 1977
Engineering industries: sales and orders (M)	21 Jan. 1977
Film industry	
British Film Fund Agency returns (M)	11 Feb. 1977
cinema admissions and takings (M)	4 Feb. 1977
overseas payments and earnings (A)	20 Aug. 1976
registrations of films (A)	4 Feb. 1977
Food:	
consumption levels (6M)	27 Aug. 1976
household consumption (Q)	7 Jan. 1977
Footwear industry: production, orders and deliveries (M)	21 Jan. 1977
Foreign exchange: official reserves (M)	11 Feb. 1977
Foreign trade: industrial countries' production and trade (Q)	3 Dec. 1976
(*see also* Overseas trade of the UK)	
Hire-purchase business (M)	11 Feb. 1977
Industrial production:	
index numbers (M)	28 Jan. 1977
Scotland	28 Jan. 1977
Wales	28 Jan. 1977
Insolvencies (Q)	4 Feb. 1977
Insurance companies: investments and assets (A)	20 Aug. 1976
Investment:	
book values of overseas direct investments (every 3 years)	15 Nov. 1973
industry's investment intentions (3 times a year)	8 Oct. 1976
investment and earnings overseas (A)	25 June 1976
Man-made fibres:	
deliveries (Q)	3 Dec. 1976
production (M)	11 Feb. 1977
production: quarterly analysis (Q)	3 Dec. 1976
Metal-working machine tools (M)	11 Feb. 1977
Motor industry:	
car and commercial vehicle production (M)	4 Feb. 1977
estimated figures (M)	11 Feb. 1977
motor trade turnover (Q)	This week
Office development permits (Q)	26 Nov. 1976
Overseas trade of the UK:	
direct exporters and credit terms (A)	16 July 1976
analysis of trends (Q)	3 Dec. 1976
ten-year back run (A)	12 Mar. 1976
export prospects (Q)	28 Jan. 1977
invoicing in foreign currencies	7 Jan. 1977
(*see also* Balance of payments)	
Pension funds: investments and assets (A)	20 Aug. 1976
Regional development grants (Q)	4 Feb. 1977
Regional selective assistance monthly summary (M)	21 Jan. 1977
Regional selective assistance: offers £10,000 or more (Q)	28 Jan. 1977
Research and development expenditure	26 Nov. 1976
Retail prices index (M)	28 Jan. 1977
Retail trades:	
sales (M)	11 Feb. 1977
provisional figures (M)	This week
sales, N. Ireland (M)	11 Feb. 1977
stocks (M)	This week
Royalties: overseas transactions (A)	25 June 1976
Shipping: nationality of vessels in UK sea-borne trade (A)	9 July 1976
Steel consumption and stocks (Q)	7 Jan. 1977
Stocks:	
manufacturers' and distributors' quarterly figures (Q)	7 Jan. 1977
manufacturers' stocks: monthly estimates (M)	28 Jan. 1977
retail (M)	This week
Television: overseas payments and earnings (A)	20 Aug. 1976
Textiles:	
activity in the industry (Q)	14 Jan. 1977
carpet sales (M)	21 Jan. 1977
cotton industry production (M)	11 Feb. 1977
hosiery production (M)	28 Jan. 1977
made-up clothing: orders and deliveries (M)	28 Jan. 1977
wholesale houses' sales (M)	28 Jan. 1977
wool exports (Q)	10 Dec. 1976
wool output (M)	11 Feb. 1977
Tourism:	
foreign visitor arrivals (M)	17 Dec. 1976
overseas travel and tourism (Q)	14 Jan. 1977
Wholesale prices:	
average prices of selected commodities (A)	9 Apr. 1976
index numbers (M)	This week

Departmental organisations etc.

British commercial representation overseas	8 Oct. 1976
Customs notices of interest to exporters	1 Oct. 1976
ECGD local offices	10 Dec. 1976
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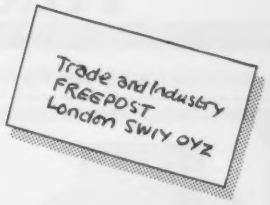

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